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BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY:

BEING

The History,

WITH A COLOURED REPRESENTATION,

OF

EVERY KOWN SPECIES

OF

BRITISH BIRDS.

By GEORGE GRAVES,

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY;

Author of the Naturalist's Pocket Book, Ovarium Britannicum, Editor of the
New Edition of Curtis's Flora Londinensis, &c.

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BRITISH BIRDS
WITH A COLOURED REPRESENTATION
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BY GEORGE GRAY
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1831

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FIRST VOLUME.

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. The Latin Index will serve as a guide to the binder in making up the volume and prevent any mistake in placing the plates; but complete Indexes will not appear until the Work is finished.



Falco chryseator.

Put. by D. Graves. - Woburn June. 1. 1812.

FALCO CHRYSEATOS.

GOLDEN EAGLE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, hooked, covered at the base with Cere.

Nostrils situated in the Cere.

Tongue cleft.

Toes three forward, one backward, the middle toe connected to the outer one to the first joint.

Claws large and hooked, the hind and inside front claws of the same size.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO CHRYSEATOS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 125. 5. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 12. 8.

GOLDEN EAGLE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 42. *tab.* 16. *Ib. fol.*

p. 61. *tab. A. Arct. Zool.* 2. 214. *A.*

Lath. Syn. 1. p. 31. *Ib. supt. p.* 10.

Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's*

Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 47. *Cat. of the*

London Museum, p. 40. *female, p.* 39.

THIS bird measures from tip to tip of the wings somewhat more than eight feet; in length three feet six inches, and it weighs from twelve to fourteen pounds. Bill very strong, much hooked, and very sharp at its edges; irides yellow; legs short, covered with feathers to the toes; claws very

very long, sharp, and strong, the hind ones being more than three inches in length. The female corresponds in colour, except being slightly dashed with white on the under side; it is considerably larger than the male, sometimes being nine feet in breadth, and four in length, and weighing sixteen pounds.

This species builds in the most inaccessible rocks in the north of England, Ireland, Scotland, and some of the Scottish isles, it has also been known to breed in North Wales, but in all these parts is very rare; it lays three or four white eggs.

About two years ago one of these birds, a female, was shot near Brompton, in Middlesex, and was presented by the Comte de VANDER to the London Museum, from which specimen our figure was taken; within a week of the same time, a male of this species was shot near Godalming, Surrey.

The Golden Eagle feeds on hares, rabbits, lambs, and the larger kinds of poultry; "and in order to extirpate them from the Orkney-Islands, there is a law which entitles any one killing an Eagle, to a hen out of every house in the parish where it may be killed."



Falco aruginosus.

Ed. by Johannes Walbaum. Pl. 1. 1. 1.

FALCO ÆRUGINOSUS.

MOOR BUZZARD.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO ÆRUGINOSUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 130. 29. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 25. 53.

MOOR BUZZARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 57. *Ib. fol.* 67. *tab.*

A. 5. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 225. *L.*

Lath. Syn. 1. p. 53. *Ib. sup.* p. 15.

Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's*

Br. Birds. Pt. 1. p. 61.

THIS species is about twenty-one inches in length, nearly three feet in breadth, and weighs twenty-two ounces. Bill an inch and a half long, having a flight notch near the tip; irides yellow; legs and claws long and slender. Colours of the female not so bright as those of the male, which it exceeds in size, being about twenty-four inches in length: both sexes vary in colour, they are sometimes found of an entire chocolate brown, also with the head and neck white.

The MOOR BUZZARD is not so generally dispersed as some of its congeners, it usually affects moist barren situations, such as swampy moors and commons, and sandy spots near the sea; with us they are a shy solitary bird, but Mr. MONTAGUE says,

says, " he has seen as many as nine at one time feeding on the carcase of a sheep on the sandy flats on the coast of Carmarthenshire."

It breeds usually on the ground, though it has also been known to build on trees; last season a pair built their nest, composed of sticks, grass, and the leaves and decayed stalks of the following rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in an osier ground near the Grand-Surrey-Canal, on the Deptford-Road; it was placed on a small hillock, just above the water's edge, and contained five dusky white eggs, two of them were splashed with rust coloured spots at the larger end; the female was shot from the nest, and being but slightly wounded lived in confinement for some months; it was fed with frogs, mice, worms, beetles, the entrails of fish and other animals, and was particularly voracious.

In its wild state this bird feeds on rabbits, hares, the young of the coot and moor-hen, it also frequents the haunts of lapwings and plovers, and destroys numbers of their young; it is not as sluggish as the common buzzard, though by no means an active bird on wing; in the spring whilst the female is incubating, the male frequently soars to a great height, and is on wing during the greater part of the day.

They are very attentive to their young, and alternately go in quest of food; the male has been known to relieve the female during the time of incubation.

Provincial names, Bald Hawk or Buzzard, Duck Hawk, White-Headed Harpy.



Falco Buteo.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. June 1811.

FALCO BUTEO.

COMMON BUZZARD.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Falco Chrysætos.*

FALCO BUTEO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 127. *Ind. Orn.* p. 23.

BUZZARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 54. tab. 25. *Ib. fol. tab. A. fig.* 3.

Lath. Syn. 1. p. 48. *Ib. Suppl.* p. 14.

Mont. Orn. Dict. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

Pt. 1. p. 57.

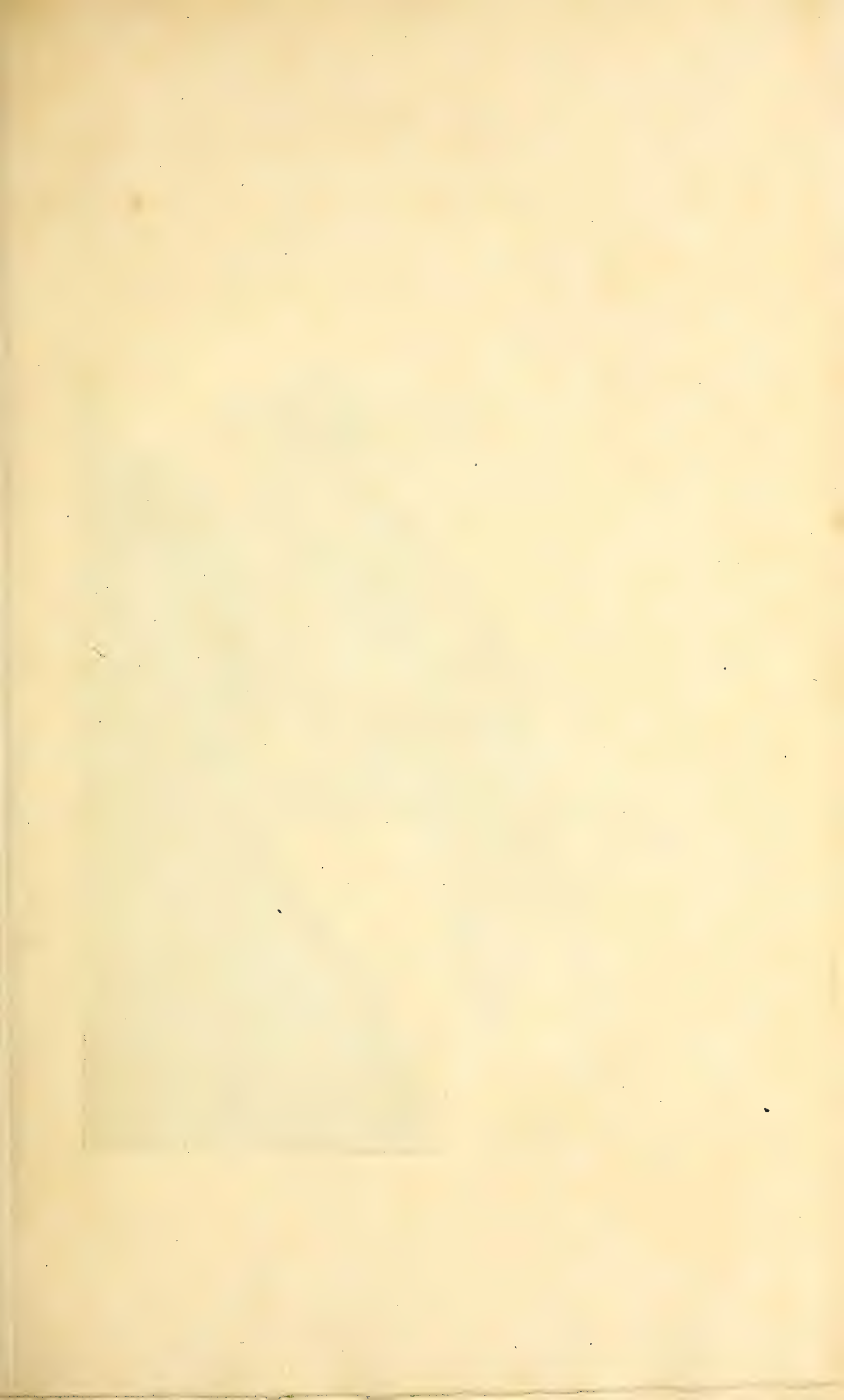
THIS common bird is about twenty-two inches in length, in breadth somewhat exceeding four feet, weighing from two pounds and a half to three and a half. Bill strong and hooked, with a notch or tooth in the upper mandible near the point; eyes sunken, and much duller than in most other species of hawk; wings when closed extending rather beyond the tail; legs strong and coarse; feathers on the thighs long and loose, and of a harsher texture than on the other parts of the bird. The colours of both sexes are subject to vary, those of the female are mostly duller; in size it is rather larger, and a much bolder bird than the male.

Of our native hawks this is the most indolent and inactive, rarely taking wing except when pressed by hunger, or in the breeding season, when it soars to a great height, ascending

ending and descending in a series of continued circles, and in its descent uttering a noise similar to the purring of a cat, but much louder, which is heard at a considerable distance.

The nest is formed in the fork of some large tree near the top, and is composed of sticks, lined with hair, wool, and other soft substances. It usually lays two eggs, sometimes a third is found in the nest, but generally when this is the case one of them proves abortive. The eggs are of a dull white, spotted with rust colour, most numerous at the larger end, and rather exceed in size those of the common hen.

During the time of incubation the male bird is very attentive to its mate, bringing it food, and during her temporary absence taking charge of the nest. Both sexes are very tenacious of their young, and continue feeding them sometime after they quit the nest. Their food consists of young hares, rabbits, moles, and other small quadrupeds; also of such other birds as from inability are unable to elude their attack: so cowardly is the male bird that it will resign its prey to the kestrel or sparrow hawk, which frequently attack it for the purpose of procuring a meal.





Falco. Melurus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. Sept. 1811.

FALCO MILVUS.

K I T E.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO MILVUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 126. 12. *Ind. Orn.*
1. p. 20. 37.

KITE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 53. *Ib. fol. tab. A.* 2. *Lath. Syn.*
1. p. 61. 43. *Ib. supt. p.* 17. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 63.

THE KITE weighs nearly two pounds and a half, and is in length rather more than two feet, and in breadth about five feet; bill strong; crown of the head rather flat, the feathers on that part have generally a rough appearance; eyes fierce; tail long and much forked, the outer feathers frequently exceeding twelve inches in length; legs and claws very strong; the female differs but little in colour from the male, but rather exceeds it in size, being sometimes two feet six inches long, and five feet eight inches in breadth.

This species generally inhabits such woody places as are in the vicinity of farms, as it chiefly depends on the produce of the farm-yard for subsistence; its food consists of chickens, young ducks, rabbits, and hares; on the failure of these, it greedily devours carrion, mice, rats, moles, reptiles of all description, and even insects; it is constantly changing its
residence

residence except during the breeding season, at which time it is very bold, and will often attack a brood of chickens, and will not easily be disappointed of its prey, frequently sustaining a combat with the hen; it will also attack and destroy young lambs, and so eagerly is it then engaged in devouring its prey, that instances have been known of its being taken by a shepherd's dog when thus employed.

This bird makes its nest early in the spring, composed of sticks, wool, hair, and not unfrequently of pieces of cloth, paper, and any other soft materials it meets with; the female lays three or four eggs of a pale yellow colour (nearly white) with a few rust-coloured spots at the larger end; during the time of incubation, the male bird in the absence of the female, takes to the nest, and has been known to sit on the eggs for three days without intermission. This was occasioned by the female being caught in a fox trap, that had been placed in a rabbit warren; the trap had caught her by the centre and outside toes, which by her continual struggles for release were torn off: on her return to the nest, she brought with her a full grown rabbit, which, owing to the injury she had received, she was unable to tear to pieces; this the male bird performed for her, and from that time continued to feed her till some weeks after their young ones had left the nest.

From the great extent of surface opposed to the trifling weight of this bird, it is able to support itself when on wing for a great length of time, and with very trifling exertion, sweeping along with a very graceful motion, which, though slow, is pleasing in its effect, somewhat resembling the broad sweeps made by an adept in the art of skating: when the
Kite

Kite has been at so great an height as to be scarcely perceivable by the naked eye, we have known it to utter a hoarse kind of bleat, which will readily lead the eye to the spot ; at that time should a rabbit or any other animal to which it is partial (as food) be stirring, it closes its wings, and falls with astonishing rapidity on its prey ; at the time it is falling it only fans the air with its tail, which but slightly impedes the rapidity of its descent.





Strix stridula?

Pub. by G. Graves Walsworth Mar. 2. 1832

STRIX STRIDULA.

TAWNY OWL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Strix Bubo*.

SYNONYMS.

STRIX STRIDULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 133. 9. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 58. 25.

TAWNY OWL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 68. *Ib. fol.* 7. *tab. B. fig.*
3. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 237. *B. Mont.*
Orn. Dict. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 1. p. 91.

STRIX ALUCO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 130. 7. *Ind. Orn.* 2.
59. 26.

BROWN OWL. *Br. Zool.* 69. *tab.* 32. *Ib. fol.* p. 72.
tab. B. fig. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 125.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2.

ALUCO OWL. *Lath. Syn.* p. 134. 20.

LENGTH of this species nearly fourteen inches, breadth two feet seven inches, weight fifteen ounces. Bill strong, about an inch and a quarter in length, much hooked; eyes very dark, they are larger in this than in any other British species, and are surrounded with hair like feathers, which have their shafts projecting half an inch beyond the webs; legs strong, and covered with feathers to the toes; claws sharp and strong, when the foot is distended, it covers a space nearly three inches square; tail composed of twelve feathers. Both sexes agree in

in colour. The female exceeds considerably in size, being seventeen inches long and two feet ten inches wide, and weighing nineteen ounces.

The Tawny is the most common of the British Owls, it resorts to woods, and particularly to plantations of fir, where it conceals itself during the day ; at the approach of night it makes its appearance, and is easily distinguished from all its congeners by its hooting, which noise it makes both when on wing and at rest, besides which it frequently utters a harsh screaming note. This is the only species known to hoot.

Owing to the size of the pupil of the eye, this species is unable to endure the light of day, and should it be disturbed or made to take wing in the day-time, it flies frequently against trees, and we have known one to fly with such force against the side of a barn, as to bring it to the ground, quite stunned with the violence of the blow.

It breeds in the decayed hollows of trees, and sometimes in barns and ruined edifices, its nest is of a very slight texture, and composed of such soft materials as the place may afford ; when it lays in the holes of trees, the eggs are mostly deposited on the decayed wood without any nest : it lays two or three opaque dusky white eggs, which are of a “ roundish form.” The young are easily brought up by hand, and are very useful in barns or granaries, being most excellent mousers ; they are at first covered with light-coloured down.

The food of this, like most other species, consists of young hares and rabbits, rats, mice, and pigeons, in quest of the latter

latter it is frequently known to enter pigeon-houses. In the cavity of a tree where this bird had bred, were found among its castings, the head and bones of some species of snake.

Mr. PENNANT has described a variety of this bird as a distinct species, under the name of the Brown Owl; authors have held different opinions, some regarding the brown variety as the female. Mr. MONTAGUE however mentions that he has killed them both from the same nest, consequently he considers them as mere varieties; in confirmation of which, we can state, that in the early part of last year (1811) a pair, the one brown and the other tawny, were shot from the nest, which was formed in the hollow of an old pollard, on Dulwich-Common; the brown one on dissection proved to be the male.

Provincial names, Ivy-Owl, Wood-Owl, Hooting-Owl, Screech-Owl, and Howlet.





Strix passerina.

Pub. by G. Graves Wadworth June 22nd 1812.

STRIX PASSERINA.

LITTLE OWL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Strix Bubo*.

SYNONYMS.

STRIX PASSERINA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 133. 12. *Ind.*
Orn. 1. p. 65. 46.

LITTLE OWL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 70. *Ib. fol.* 73. *tab. B.* 5.
Arct. Zool. 2. 126. *Lath. Syn.* 1.
p. 150. 40. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2.
Cat. of the London Museum, p. 43.

LENGTH nearly nine, and breadth fourteen inches, weight about two ounces and a half. Bill broad at the base, and much curved, surrounded with hair-like feathers, which project beyond the bill; irides light yellow with green reflections; legs feathered to the toes, which are covered with down, interspersed with hairs; claws long and slender. These birds are subject to considerable variation in the colour of their plumage; the female rather exceeds in size.

This is a very rare bird, and is but seldom known to breed in this country; our friend Mr. GOUGH, of Middlethaw, in Westmoreland, informs us, “a pair took up their abode in a barn, in that village, in the spring of 1811, one of which died by some accident; another pair bred in a chimney, in the same neighbourhood,

neighbourhood, a year or two before. They frequently fly by day, and do not court the shades of night so much as the other species."

It feeds on mice and other small animals, and usually builds in chimnies and old ruined buildings; it lays five roundish white eggs, blotched with cream colour and light brown.

A fine specimen of this bird is in the London Museum, from which our figure was taken.



Lanius Collurio.

Del. by J. Graves. Wm. W. & Co. Jan 22. 1833.

LANIUS COLLURIO.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Lanius excubitor*.

SYNONYMS.

LANIUS COLLURIO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 136. 12. *Ind.*
Orn. 1. p. 69. 11.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 72. *Ib. fol.* p. 74.
tab. C. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 131. *Lath.*
Syn. 1. p. 167. 25. *Ib. supt.* p. 52.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's*
Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 96.

LESSER BUTCHER-BIRD OR FLUSHER. *Albin's Birds,*
2. tab. 14.

THIS species is seven inches and three quarters in length, twelve in breadth, and weighs rather more than one ounce. Bill strong, with a deep notch near the tip ; irides dark hazel ; legs and claws strong, the latter particularly sharp ; tail composed of twelve feathers, the two centre ones of which are the longest. The female is rather larger, and differs so considerably in colour, that we purpose giving a figure of it in a future number.

It builds in thick low hedges, and sometimes the nest is placed on the ground, at the root of some old stump ; the nest is loosely composed of moss, roots, and wool, lined
with

with hair ; it lays five or six white eggs, spotted with greyish brown, chiefly at the larger end ; the principal food of the species is beetles and other insects, these it is said to transfix on a thorn, and tearing off the body, leaves the remainder behind ; we never noticed this curious circumstance, but most writers make mention of it ; all we can say is, that of numbers which we have examined, most if not all of them, contained parts of the legs and wings ; in one killed on the second of July, were two whole beetles and some undigested parts, the latter were in the state usually found when prepared for ejecting, which this species does in the manner of the larger birds of prey.

Both parents and young are very clamorous at the approach of any person near the nest, making a loud chattering noise ; the note of the brood is very similar to that of young sparrows. It is found plentifully in the vicinities of London and Bristol ; is also met with in some parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, Suffex, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Yorkshire, but in many other parts of this kingdom is entirely unknown.

Its provincial names are Lesser Butcher-Bird, Jack-Baker, Flusher, Shrite, and Shreek or Skreek.



Parus major.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1, May 1811.

PARUS MAJOR.

GREAT TITMOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill compressed, straight, short, and sharp-pointed.
Nostrils round, covered by the vibrissæ.
Tongue lacinated, points terminating nearly on a line.
Toes separate, hind-one the longest.

SYNONYMS.

PARUS MAJOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 341. 3.
GREAT TITMOUSE or OX-EYE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 162.
Ib. fol. 113. *tab. W. fig.* 4. *Lath.*
Syn. 4. 536. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 244.

THIS species is in length near six inches, in breadth about nine inches, and weighs nearly three-quarters of an ounce; bill short, hard, and very strong; eyes large and black; legs strong; claws sharp and much curved, that on the hind-toe much longer and more curved. The colours of the female are like those of the male, except being somewhat duller, and in the breeding season the breast and belly incline to cinereous.

The GREAT TITMOUSE (or Joe Bent) is to be met with in almost every garden; its habits and economy are very similar to those of the blue titmouse, but it is more daring, and will, during the time of incubation, scarcely suffer any bird to approach its nest, it will even attack the magpie, should
it

it intrude on its territories: we know of an instance, where a sparrow that chanced to alight in the vicinity of the nest, was killed in an instant by the male bird; it is more frequently observed to attack small birds than any other of our native species, and often robs the nests of the hedge-sparrow and red-start of the young.

It generally builds a neat compact nest, composed of moss, vegetable-down, hair, and feathers; it is placed often in a hole, in a tree, or wall, or in an out-house, and we know of its building and rearing its young in the corner of a manger, from which a number of horses were in the daily habit of feeding; it lays from six to ten white eggs, spotted with rust colour.

The general note of this bird is little better than a chatter, but in the spring it varies; sometimes uttering a low plaintive note, interrupted by a very shrill whistle, and frequently a harsh kind of jarring noise; these varied notes cease as the year advances, and when the breeding season is over and the young quit the nest, its note again becomes monotonous.

When in pursuit of the female, the male erects the feathers on the head and neck; should it when thus engaged, meet with one of its own sex, a battle immediately commences, which seldom terminates but with the loss of life in one of the party; when this happens, the survivor falls on the vanquished, and pecks out the brains, which is the part they prefer to all others.

A variety is sometimes met with that has a white spot on the crown of the head, and a ring of the same round the neck.





Parus Cæruleus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1, Jan. 1811.

PARUS CŒRULEUS.

BLUE TITMOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Parus Major.*

SYNONYMS.

PARUS CŒRULEUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 341.

BLUE TITMOUSE. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 163. *tab.* 57. *Lath.*
Syn. 4. p. 543. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 1. p. 246. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

THIS lively little bird is in length rather more than four inches; weighs about five drams and a half; bill strong, sharp pointed, very thick at the base; eyes large and lively; legs slender; toes divided to the base, the hinder claw very long; in the female the colours are somewhat duller than in the male.

Few of our small birds have attracted more attention than the Blue Titmouse, its delicate colours, active motions, and familiar manners, seem to court particular notice; it feeds principally on small insects, to procure which it frequently commits considerable injury to fruit trees, in removing the buds; it mostly hangs from the branch, and examines with curious eye the smallest crevice, and will readily devour the eggs and larvæ of all kinds of insects; nor is it always satisfied with this
kind

kind of fare, as it will attack small birds, particularly such as are weak or diseased, and dispatches them with its bill, with which it immediately cleaves the skull, and picks out the brains, but mostly leaves the body for another meal, first carefully covering it with leaves, or any substance that may be in the way.

The female builds her nest in the holes of trees or walls, she forms it of moss, well lined with feathers, hair, and wool, and lays from six to eight eggs, some writers assert they lay from fourteen to twenty; in those we have had an opportunity of examining, we never found more than eight, and most generally but six or seven, they are of a clear transparent white, finely splashed with bright rust colour at the larger end.

They are very tenacious of their nest; should any one approach it while either of them are sitting, they erect their feathers, and place themselves in a posture of defence, and continue to make a noise similar to the hissing of snakes, during the intrusion.





Parus caudatus.

Published by G. Groves Walworth Jan 1862.

PARUS CAUDATUS.

LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Parus major.*

SYNONYMS.

PARUS CAUDATUS. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 342. 11. Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 569. 20.

LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE. *Br. Zool. 1. 166. Lath.*

Syn. 4. p. 550. Ib. sup. p. 190.

Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br.

Birds, Pt. 1. p. 248.

THIS elegant little species is about five inches and a half in length, six and a half in breadth, and weighs nearly four drams. Bill very short; feathers on the head and cheeks rough, and always erect; irides hazel; "edges of the eye-lids yellow;" tail very long, the second feathers from the centre being three inches and a half in length, the middle ones rather shorter, those on the outside gradually declining, the shortest not exceeding an inch and a half; legs and claws strong. Colours of the sexes alike, the female exceeds in weight nearly one dram.

Though numerous in some parts, the long-tailed is not so generally dispersed as either the greater, the blue, or the marsh Titmouse, but is most usually found in low moist situations, that are covered with underwood, and interspersed with lofty oaks or elms. In such places it builds; its nest differs from all the other species with which we are acquainted; it most generally is placed in the forked branch of a large tree, that overhangs the water, and is composed of moss and lichens, interwoven

interwoven with wool and feathers ; with the latter it is lined in such quantities as to completely im-bed the eggs. The exterior of this curious little mansion from the quantity of lichens with which it is formed, so nearly resembles the bark of the tree whereon it is placed, that it readily escapes observation ; the nest is completely closed on all sides with the exception of a small hole on the lower part. It lays from twelve to eighteen white eggs, spotted with rust colour at the larger end ; Mr. Montague observes, “ the eggs are less than those of any other British bird, except the golden-crested wren, weighing about twelve grains.”

The habits of this species are very similar to those of the blue Titmouse, and like it is almost incessantly in motion, running up and down the branches of trees in search of food, which consists of the smaller species of insects, also the larvæ and eggs of those that deposit them in the crevices of the bark ; in the winter they associate in small flocks of from eight to twelve, and sometimes more, and are kept together by their continual chirping ; like their nest their colours assimilate so nearly with the white moss, abundant on trees at that season of the year, that was it not for their note it would be difficult to find them.

Owing to the length of tail, its flight is undulating, and irregular, but most usually very quick, seeming to pass through the air like an arrow. Its provincial names are numerous, and are most generally given either from the form of its nest or length of tail, as Bottle Tit, Bottle Tom, * Feather Poke, Long-tailed Mag, Long-tailed Pie, Long-tailed Capon, Mum Ruffin, Huck Muck, Ragged Robin.

* This is also the provincial name in many parts for the nest.



Corvus Cornix.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1 Feb. 1811.

CORVUS CORNIX.

HOODED CROW.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Corvus Corax.

SYNONYMS.

CORVUS CORNIX. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 156. 5.

ROYSTON CROW. *Albin's Birds*, 2. tab. 23.

HOODED CROW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 77. *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 374.

5. *Ib. sup.* p. 77. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 102.

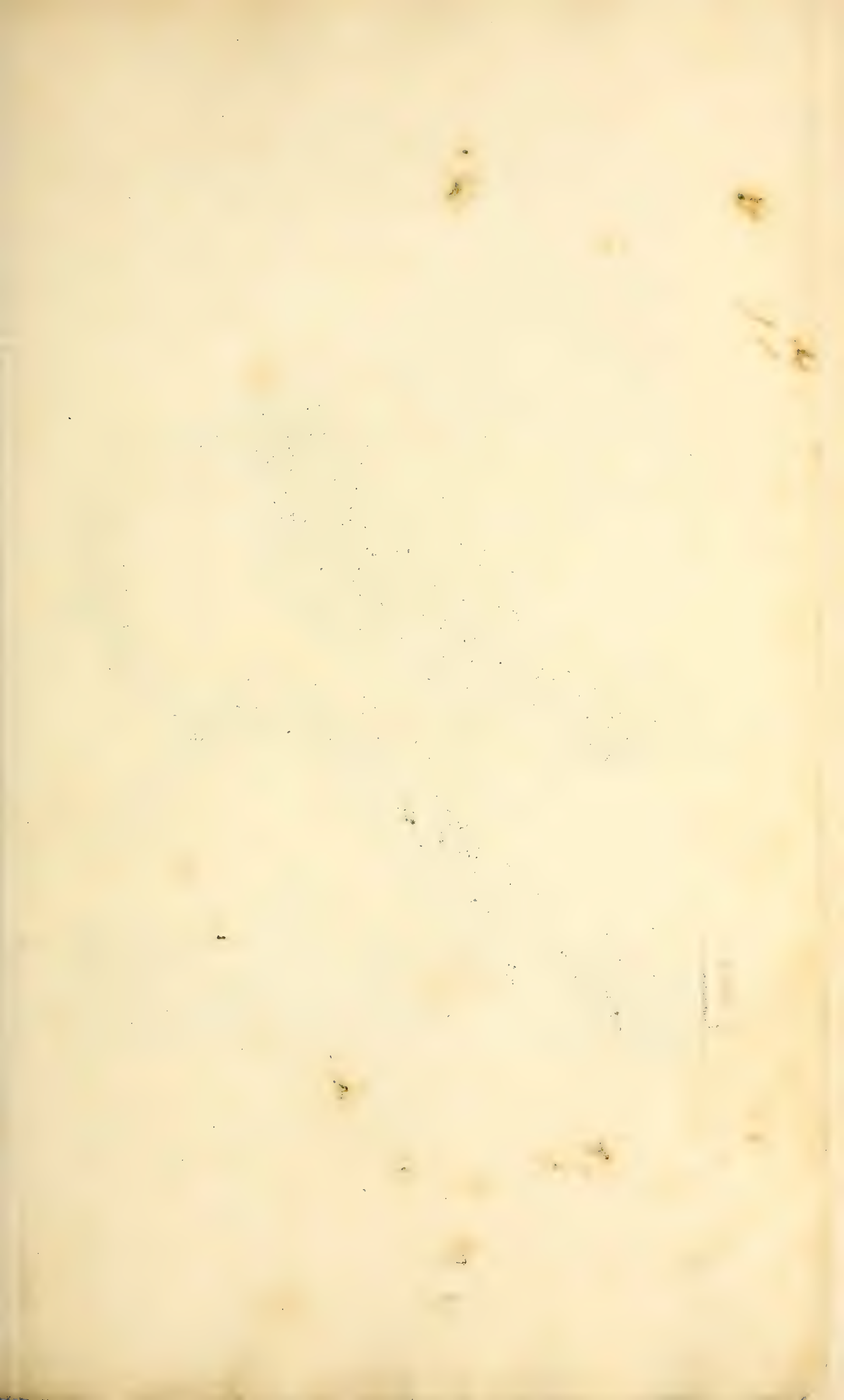
THE HOODED CROW is about twenty-two inches in length, and weighs nearly one pound and a half; bill two inches and a quarter long, furnished with very strong vibrissæ; legs scaly. Colours alike in both sexes; the female mostly weighs two or three ounces more than the male.

This species is very generally found throughout Great-Britain, and is, we are informed by Pennant, "the only genuine species of Crow found in the Hebrides, Orkneys, and Shetlands;" it makes its nest in the same manner and with the same kinds of materials as the common crow; it lays six eggs.

Their principal food is carrion, which they will scent out at a very great distance, the most putrid carcase is devoured by them with avidity; they often attack the eyes of young lambs
and

and diseased sheep, “ and mostly succeed if the animal is incapable of rising.” To the extensive downs and heaths with which this country abounds, they resort in vast numbers, where they feed on grain, worms, and insects, particularly beetles, for which they search with the greatest diligence; may be often seen in company with the common crow, in ploughed fields; it is a very shy bird, and will take wing even at the approach of a dog; on the sea coasts they feed on small shell-fish, marine insects, and any animal matter thrown up by the tide.

It was formerly very common in the vicinity of London, particularly about the neighbourhoods of Hoxton and Hackney, but is now become rare so near town.





Corvus caryocatactes.

Pub. by G. Graves Wadworth June 2. 1822.

CORVUS CARYOACTATES.

NUTCRACKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Corvus Corax*.

SYNONYMS.

CORVUS CARYOACTATES. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 157. 10.

Ind. Orn. 1. p. 164. 39.

NUTCRACKER. *Br. Zool. Appdx. tab.* 1. *Art. Zool.* 2.

p. 252. *D. Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 400.

38. *Ib. sup.* p. 82. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

Pt. 1. p. 111.

THIS rare species is about thirteen inches in length, and weighs between eight and nine ounces. Bill two inches long, the base thickly beset with sharp pointed feathers interspersed with bristles; eyes light hazel; legs very strong; claws short, and much curved.

But few instances are on record of this bird having been found in England; the specimen from which our figure was executed was shot in Devonshire, and presented by Mr. HARRISON, of *Parliament-Street*, to Mr. BULLOCK, proprietor of the London Museum.

These birds are found in abundance in many parts of Europe, particularly Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Burgundy,
and

and “ the pine forests of Russia and Siberia, and all over Kamtschatka ;” they are said to feed principally on the seeds of the pine.

The Nutcracker takes its name from the facility with which it breaks nuts to get at the kernels ; this it does by first fixing the nut in a crevice in the bark of a tree, and splitting it by repeated strokes of its bill. It is said to build in holes of trees, which it adapts to this purpose with its bill in the manner of the wood-pecker. We are unacquainted with the eggs.



Cuculus canorus.

Ed. by S. Graves, Walworth, Sept. 1862.

CUCULUS CANORUS.

COMMON CUCKOW.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved.

Tongue short.

Tail composed of ten flexible feathers.

Toes two forwards and two backwards.

SYNONYMS.

CUCULUS CANORUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 168. 1. *Ind.*
Orn. 1. p. 207. 1.

COMMON CUCKOW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 82. *tab.* 36. *Ib. fol.*
80. *tab.* G. G. 1. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p.
266. *tab. A.* *Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 509. 1.
Ib. supt. p. 98. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1.
p. 131.

THIS species is nearly fifteen inches in length, twenty-five in breadth, and it weighs about four ounces and a half. Bill strong and much curved; inside of the mouth red; irides and eye-lids yellow; tail consisting of ten feathers of unequal length, of which the outer ones are remarkably short, which is also the case with the first quill feather; legs and claws short. The female differs in colour, being more inclined to brown, and is also nearly an inch shorter than the male.

Of

Of the true history of this bird, but little was known till Mr. GENNER, in a letter to the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, published in the seventy-eighth volume of the Philosophical Transactions, gave to the world the extraordinary highly interesting account we here transcribe. " On the eighteenth of June 1787, Mr. GENNER examined the nest of a Hedge-Sparrow, which then contained a Cuckow's and three Hedge-Sparrow's eggs. On inspecting it the day following, the bird had hatched, but the nest contained only a young Cuckow and one young Hedge-Sparrow. The nest was placed so near the extremity of a hedge, that he could distinctly see what was going forward in it ; and, to his great astonishment, he saw the young Cuckow, though so lately hatched, in the act of turning out the young Hedge-Sparrow.

" The mode of accomplishing this was curious ; the little animal, with the assistance of its rump and wings, contrived to get the bird on its back, and making a lodgement for its burden by elevating its elbows, clambered backwards with it up the side of the nest till it reached the top, where, resting for a moment, it threw off its load with a jerk, and quite disengaged it from the nest : after remaining a short time in this situation, and feeling about with its wings as if to be convinced that the business was properly executed, it dropped into the nest again."

The Cuckow generally makes choice of the Hedge-Sparrow's nest to deposit its egg, it will also lay in the common and yellow wagtails, the white-throats, reed-sparrows, titlarks, and we know of one laying in a swallow's nest ; we have known the young reared by all the foregoing with the exception of the swallow,

swallow, which on discovering the addition in its nest, precipitately forsook it, and did not ever return, but built a new nest at a distance from the former one. It is not a little curious that this bird always lays in the nests of such birds as feed on insects, by which it secures a supply of proper food to its abandoned offspring: the Hedge-Sparrow will frequently continue to feed the young Cuckow for a considerable time after it has left the nest; the Cuckow is said "to rest itself on its side in order that the Hedge-Sparrow may be able to reach its mouth, and it frequently extends one wing for the bird to pitch on to perform that office."

This bird usually arrives here about the beginning of April, and quits towards the end of July, though we have known them killed as late as the month of October; the well-known cry of the male bird is began to be uttered soon after its arrival, and ceases about the month of June; this year we heard one on the seventeenth of July. It feeds on insects, particularly caterpillars; on the fourth of June, this year (1812) we observed one very busily engaged picking the caterpillars of the peacock and small tortoiseshell butterflies from off a nettle, it seemed to swallow these with considerable difficulty, being some seconds in passing a single one, to perform which, it used very great exertion; after it had cleared the nettle it flew to some cabbages, where it found abundance of the caterpillars of the white butterfly, which being quite smooth and free from hair, it eat them as fast and with as much facility as a pigeon would the same number of peas. When it had finished its repast we killed it, and on opening it, found the hairy caterpillars almost cleared of hair, which was adhering to the sides of the gullet and stomach; this may have given rise

to

to the opinion of the inside of the stomach's being hairy ; the smooth caterpillars were all seemingly unhurt, though quite dead.

The young birds differ very considerably from the adults, being all over mottled with brown and ferruginous ; they do not attain their full plumage till after the second moult ; the eggs are of a dusky white, spotted with various tints of ash-colour and olive green, the spots are most numerous at the larger end. The females do not arrive till some time after the males, nor do they quit till a week or two later ; their note is a loud hoarse scream or chatter.

Since the above went to press, we have seen two birds, one on the twenty-sixth and the other on the twenty-seventh of the present month (August) the former one was a male, and was uttering its well known cry of Cuckow, this it did very hoarsely ; the sex of the latter one we did not discover.



Tyrna Torquilla.

Pub. by G. Graves Walsworth April 1812.

JYNX TORQUILLA.

WRYNECK.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill round and somewhat incurvated.

Nostrils bare.

Tongue long, slender, cylindrical, and terminated with an horny substance.

Toes two forward and two backward.

Tail composed of ten flexible feathers.

SYNONYMS.

JYNX TORQUILLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 172. *Ind. Orn.*
1. p. 223. 1.

WRYNECK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 83. *Ib. fol.* 80. *tab. F. G.*
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 267. *B. Lath. Syn.*
2. p. 548. *tab.* 24. *Ib. supt.* p. 103.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's
Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 136.

THE length of this bird is seven inches, breadth about eleven, it weighs three quarters of an ounce ; bill three-fourths of an inch long ; irides light blood colour ; feathers on the crown of the head erectable ; toes and claws very strong. Colours alike in both sexes,

This

This elegant species most generally frequents woods and orchards, where it may frequently be observed running up the branches of trees in search of insects; these it secures by means of its tongue, which is covered with a thick viscid exudation, which completely secures such insects as come in contact with it; ants and their eggs are eagerly sought after as a favourite food of this bird; it resorts to the ant-hills, into the crevices of which it introduces its tongue, which easily penetrates by having its tip of a harder substance than the other parts; the insects being thus roused endeavour to escape, but such as endeavour to cross the tongue are sure to adhere and are immediately drawn out and devoured.

The Wryneck makes its nest in the hole of a tree, at the bottom of which, little else is to be found than the decayed parts of the tree, on these it lays eight or ten beautiful semi-transparent white eggs; during the time of incubation it is very tenacious of its retreat, and if an attempt be made to molest it, boldly strikes at the offender with its bill; at this time it erects its crest, and utters a loud hissing noise, and should the male bird be at hand, it will frequently flutter round the intruder, uttering a piercing scream not unlike that of the Kestrel Hawk; it is also observed to make this call on its first arrival in this country, but usually discontinues it as soon as the female begins to sit.

The name of Wryneck has been given to this bird from its continual habit of writhing and twisting its neck, particularly when alarmed, its tongue is thrust out, and it continues these motions for an hour together whilst disturbed.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the haunts of this species are usually confined to the neighbourhood of large trees, we have found it under such circumstances as to be induced to believe it sometimes breeds on extensive commons among furze; we shot one which proved a female, from off a little clump of furze, which had nearly lost all the breast feathers through incubating; almost immediately after we sprung the male, who continued to fly round us, and screamed for a great length of time while we were searching after the nest, which we were not so fortunate as to find, but from the continued anxiety displayed by the male we have no doubt was near the spot,

Few birds are more likely to escape general notice than the present, as when at rest it is hardly to be discerned from the tree whereon it is fixed, by reason of its colours approximating so nearly with the surrounding objects,

It usually precedes the cuckoo a week or ten days, and is known (from this circumstance) in parts by the name of Cuckoo's mate, besides which it is called Snake-Bird, Long-Tongue, Emmet-Hunter, and Hissing-Bird.



Loxia Coccythraustes.

Pub. Feb. 1831. by G. Graves, Watworth.

LOXIA COCCOTHRAUSTES.

HAW-GROSBEAK.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Loxia curvirostra*.

SYNONYMS.

LOXIA COCCOTHRAUSTES. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 299. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 371. 4.

GROSBEAK OR HAWFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 113. *Ib. fol.* 105.

tab. U. fig. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 354.

tab. C. Lath. Syn. 3. p. 109. 4. *Ib.*

supt. p. 148. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 156.

THE length of this species is about seven, and the breadth near thirteen inches; its weight rather exceeds two ounces. Bill three-fourths of an inch long, it is unusually strong, being half an inch thick at its base; irides light hazel; the points of most of the quill feathers are truncated, the tips of the first four or five are bent somewhat in the form of the ancient battle axe; legs slender; claws strong.

The female is scarcely so bulky, but nearly resembles the male in colour; both sexes vary much in brightness and disposition of colour; scarcely two are to be seen that exactly agree in all their markings; but, generally speaking, the colours of the female are not so lively as those of the male.

During

During autumn the Hawfinch visits this country in small flocks, consisting of from six to twelve birds, but is not numerous in any part of England; some are annually seen in the marshes of Hackney and Plaistow, near London, and we remember to have seen a flock feeding on the berries of the mountain ash, near Aldborough-Park, Surrey; whilst feeding, they seemed very restless and were continually twittering; they fly heavily and near the ground.

The food of this bird consists of the berries of the hawthorn (whence its name) privet, mountain-ash, and service; it is astonishing to see with what facility this bird breaks the stones to get at the kernels; Mr. Montague says "they break them with as much ease as other small birds break hemp-feed."

"The nest is composed of dried fibres, intermixed with liver-wort, and lined with finer materials; the eggs are of a bluish green, spotted with olive brown, with a few irregular black markings." Its provincial names are Cherryfinch, Hawfinch, Bull-head, and this with the Crossbill is in some parts called Shell-Apple.

For our specimen we are indebted to A. HARRISON, Esq. of Parliament-Street.



Loxia Curvirostra.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth. 1. Jan. 1811.

LOXIA CURVIROSTRA.

CROSS-BILL.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, thick, and convex.

Nostrils small, round.

Tongue truncated.

Toes three before, one behind.

SYNONYMS.

LOXIA CURVIROSTRA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 299. *ed.* 1.

CROSS-BILL OR SHEL-APPLE. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 115. *tab.* 49.

Lath. Syn. 3. p. 106. *ed.* 1 *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 153.

THIS bird is about seven inches in length, the bill is convex, and both mandibles cross each other at the points; in some birds the lower mandible is slightly serrated; the legs are strong and feathered below the knee. Both sexes vary in colour in different seasons; the female seldom has any clear red, or orange about her, and is mostly of a dull green colour blotched with red brown.

Is found in the Northern districts of Europe, in the mountains of Switzerland, and among the Pyrenees and Alps; feeds chiefly on the cones of the pine, the principal vegetable inhabitant

bitant of those frigid regions; from whence it migrates to most of the Northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America; its visits to this country are very irregular, in some seasons it has been observed in large flocks, in others scarcely a solitary bird is to be met with through the whole kingdom. We noticed several in a large fir plantation, near Leath-Hill, Surrey, in 1807. From Montague's Ornithological Dictionary we learn, "the female builds as early as January; she places her nest under the bare branches of the pine-tree, fixing it with the resinous matter which exudes from that tree, and besmearing it on the outside with the same substance, so that no rain or snow can penetrate it."

In some years these birds are very injurious to our apple-orchards, as a flock sometimes alights on a tree soon after day-break, and will entirely strip it of its fruit in a short time; it is the more destructive as it is only the seeds or kernels that it consumes, to get at which, it cuts or scrapes away the pulp; from this circumstance it derives the common appellation of Shel-Apple.



Fringilla caelebs.

Published, March 1767. by J. D. and W. H. W.

FRINGILLA CÆLEBS.

CHAFFINCH.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Fringilla domestica*.

SYNONYMS.

FRINGILLA CÆLEBS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 318. 3. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 437. 12.

CHAFFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 1. 125. *Ib. fol.* 108. *tab.* 5.

fig. 2, 3. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 381. *F.*

Latb. Syn. 3. p. 257. 10. *Ib. supt.*

p. 165. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 178.

THE CHAFFINCH weighs nearly an ounce, is five inches in length and nine in breadth ; the female is rather smaller, and weighs two drams less than the male, her colours are considerably duller, the upper parts are generally of a dull olive green, the breast very dusky white ; the white marking on the wings are alike in both sexes.

Few birds are more generally known than the present, as its haunts are generally confined to the vicinity of our habitations ; it is usually esteemed a very unwelcome guest in gardens, feeding on most kinds of seeds and fruit ; it is particularly injurious to our cherry orchards, as it greedily devours the fruit in all stages, from the time it sets till it ripens ; in winter it associates with its affinities in the farm-yard, where it picks up such seed as may be scattered by the flail ; in spring

spring it devours an immense number of caterpillars, feeding the young with them and other small insects till they are able to provide for themselves ; and thus, perhaps, fully compensate for the injury committed at other seasons.

The nest of this species is worthy of our admiration as a master-piece of elegance and neatness ; in choice of the materials, it is guided by an instinct wisely bestowed by its all-bountiful Creator, that points out such as may tend to its greater security : thus when the nest is placed in the fork of a branch, or against the side of a moss-grown tree, the exterior of this comfortable little mansion is thickly studded with moss and lichens of a corresponding colour ; when it is built in an ivy-bush, it is composed of green moss, which assimilating in colour with the surrounding objects, renders it more secure by being less liable to observation. The fabric is composed of moss, wool, and hair, interwoven with feathers, the soft parts of which are left projecting from the side as a lining.

It lays five or six eggs of a pale purplish bluish colour, beautifully freckled and streaked with dark purple ; the eggs are not all marked alike, some being nearly covered with the dark colour, whilst others have only a few streaks sparingly distributed at the larger end. The young keep together till after the first moult, before which time they are all feathered like the female.

Chaffinches remain with us throughout the year ; but in some other parts of Europe the sexes separate ; the females at the decline of the year repair southward, but the males being more robust, brave the inclemency of the northern winters.

winters. Mr. White, in his history of Selbourn, remarks, that flocks of females have been observed in that neighbourhood about Christmas.

The note of the Chaffinch is very simple, “ it commences about the 26th of January, and continues till the 8th of March ;” at other times both sexes have a call expressing the word Spink or Twink, names that are bestowed on it in the north of England ; besides which it is known in different parts of this kingdom by the appellations of Bull-Spink, Pink, Scrobby, Beech-Finch, Shell-Apple, Skelly, Horse-Finch, and Shillea.





Fringilla Carduelis.

Pub. by G. Graves, Wabworth, 1. March. 1871.

FRINGILLA CARDUELIS.

G O L D F I N C H.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Fringilla Domestica.*

SYNONYMS.

FRINGILLA CARDUELIS. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 318. 7.*
GOLDFINCH OF THISTLEFINCH. *Br. Zool. 2. 124.*
Latb. Syn. 3. p. 281. Mont. Orn. Dict.
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 182.

THIS beautiful species is in length near five inches ; bill conic ; eyes dark hazel ; legs slender. Colours nearly similar in both sexes, those of the female are scarcely so vivid, and the wing coverts are inclined to brown. The nest is elegantly constructed, it is externally formed of moss, dry grass, and lichens, and lined with the down of thistles, hair, and wool ; it usually lays four or five eggs, of a blueish white colour, slightly spotted with dark purple at the largest end.

The GOLDFINCH is very common throughout this kingdom ; its docile disposition, joined to its melody of note, and elegance of colours, has long been the cause of its being kept in a state of confinement, and in some instances we may say of slavery ; as it is not unfrequently obliged to draw up water in a bucket from a considerable depth, and to procure
its

its food from a box, the lid of which it is under the necessity of supporting during the time it is feeding. When confined it readily breeds with the canary bird.

During severe weather the Goldfinch often resorts to gardens and farm-yards, in quest of scattered grain, but on the return of mild weather, it quits the vicinity of our habitations for its more usual haunts; its principal food is the seeds of thistles, teasels, and the leaves of groundsel; the young ones for the first few weeks are fed with small caterpillars, to procure a sufficient supply of which, the parent birds are almost continually on wing; we have noticed them busily engaged about tufts of nettles, devouring the caterpillars of the *papilio io* (the peacock butterfly).

The plumage of these birds often varies in confinement, being frequently met with quite black, or black and white, and sometimes (though less frequently) entirely white; birds fed constantly with hemp-seed, are very subject to become black.



Alauda arvensis.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, 1. Oct. 1811.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS.

SKY-LARK.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, straight, pointed, curving at the tip.

Nostrils covered with feathers and bristles.

Tongue cloven at the point.

Toes divided to their base.

Claws sharp, those on the hind toe very long and slightly curved.

SYNONYMS.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. 187. 1. *Ind. Orn.*

2. p. 491. 1. *W. Curtis's Mfs.*

SKY-LARK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 136. *Ib. fol.* 93. *tab. S.* 2.

fig. 7. Lath. Syn. 4. p. 368. 1. *Mont.*

Orn. Diet. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.*

1. p. 194.

THE SKY-LARK is in length about seven inches, in breadth near twelve inches, and it weighs in the winter more than two ounces; bill slender and sharp-pointed; irides hazel; feathers on the crown of the head long, and erectable at pleasure; legs light brown in the young bird, changing to dusky as it advances in age; claws sharp, the hind one very long and nearly straight. Colour of the sexes alike.

This

This species is common in most parts of this country, but more abundant in those that are cultivated, as arable land; it builds on the ground, frequently between two clods of earth; the nest is composed of dry grass and stalks, and lined with the same kind of materials, only of a finer texture; it lays four or five eggs of a dusky white colour spotted with brown, in some places the spots have the appearance of being run together; the female sits about fifteen days, and often has two broods in the year; it is very attentive to its young, trying many artifices to entice the incautious passenger from its nest; when in danger it flutters over the nest, and by its motions gives information to the young of their danger or security; the young are fed with insects and grain, and soon learn to provide for themselves.

But few of the feathered tribe have greater claims to our admiration than this delightful warbler, who commences its carol with the rising day; this is the only species that is known to sing as it rises; it at first but twitters, but as it ascends it pours forth its full strains of enchanting melody; it rises in an oblique direction, and frequently “soars beyond the shepherd’s sight;” when at its greatest height, should a bird of prey make its appearance, it closes its wings and drops like a stone to the earth at a short distance from the nest, should the unwelcome intruder be still hovering it lays motionless, and its colour assimilating so nearly with the earth, it is in this state more likely to escape the observation of its enemy; when descending in its usual manner it comes down by repeated falls, fluttering and singing till it arrives within a short distance of the ground, when it is mute. It is generally thought that the sky-lark does not at any time settle in trees,
but

but this is an error, as we have repeatedly shot them from off a bough, where it waits the passing of insects, which it catches by jumping at them, and then returns to the bough again in the manner of some of the smaller species of larks.

These birds vary but little in their general plumage, some instances occasionally occur of their being found quite white; but the heel is a criterion by which the species may with certainty be known.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.

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Alauda pratensis.

Pub. by G. Graves Walworth Nov 11821.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS.

TIT-LARK.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Alauda arvensis*.

SYNONYMS.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 287. 2. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 493. 5.

TIT-LARK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 138. *Ibid.* fol. 94. tab. Q. fig. 6. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 395. C. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 374. 5. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 200.

THE TIT-LARK rather exceeds five inches in length, is about ten in breadth, and weighs about half an ounce. Bill sharp, weak, and slender; irides dark hazel; legs slender; hind claw rather bent. Colours of the sexes alike.

Few birds are more plentiful than the present, it frequents commons and barren grounds, where it breeds; the nest is composed of dry stalks, grass, and lined with finer sorts of the latter, intermixed with long horse hair; the nest is usually placed on the ground amongst furze or high grass; it lays five or six eggs, of which, seldom two correspond in colour, varying from dark brown to cream colour; they are most generally spotted all over with rufous.

In the spring this bird has a very lively note, which it usually utters when descending; in the evening may be
seen

seen on a spray, from which it is continually soaring to some height, and descends in the manner of the sky-lark; at these times its notes are very fine.

This species feeds on worms and insects, to procure which, it resorts to springs and shallow waters; it is very careful of its young, and in the breeding season, is almost continually on wing to procure food for them; when it has obtained any, it does not immediately return to the nest, but settles at a distance, and then runs to it; owing to this the nest is very difficult to find.

These birds are subject to vary in their plumage, from brown to olive, and we have met with one this season nearly white.





Muscicapa atricapilla.

Painted by G. D. Grayes Waltham Jan 25 1853.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.

PIED FLY-CATCHER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill beset with bristles, upper mandible flattened at the base, and notched near the tip.

Other Characters as in the *Alauda* and *Motacilla* Generas.

SYNONYMS.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 326. 9.

Ind. Orn. 2. p. 467. 1.

PIED FLY-CATCHER. *Br. Zool.* 135. *Ib. fol.* 103.

tab. S. fig. 1. (*Maf.*) *Arch. Zool.* 2.

p. 391. *B. Ib. supt.* p. 64. *Lath.*

Syn. 3. p. 324. 2. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1.

p. 208.

LENGTH nearly five inches, breadth about nine ; bill weak, slightly notched at the tip ; irides dark hazel ; legs and claws slender ; the female is rather less, and has the colours more blended, the white parts approaching to dusky, and the black not so deep a hue, and also wants the white on the forehead, so conspicuous in the male ; both sexes vary in their markings, as is very frequently the case with pied birds.

This

This species is very local ; is found in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Derbyshire ; we have also met with it at Enfield in Middlesex, and at Peckham in Surrey ; in the last-mentioned place we had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with its manners, in the summer of 1812. We did not notice it till the young were about five or six days old ; the nest was formed in a hole in an old willow pollard, at about seven feet from the ground ; it was composed of a few hairs, some dry grafs, and fibres ; they were seven young ones, and their appetites were so insatiate, that the parent birds were on wing during the greatest part of the day seeking food, which consists entirely of insects ; as soon as either had caught an insect, it flew to the tree and uttered a shrill squeak, when the young immediately opened their mouths, and the morsel seemed indiscriminately given to the nearest one : we noticed them for many hours, and on the average, each of the parents returned to the nest about twelve times in five minutes.

The young were able to leave the nest in about two weeks after our first acquaintance with them ; at first they perched on some slender twigs, projecting immediately from the side of the hole where they were nestled, and attempted to catch any insect that passed them, but without leaving the branch, the old birds still continuing to feed them ; in a short time they ventured to spring up from the bough at any passing insect, and returned immediately to the same spot again, and if the effort was successful they instantly flitted up their tail.

When they had left the nest about two weeks, they ventured on wing, and it was particularly amusing to observe their first attempts at taking their prey ; at a few yards from the tree

was

was the wall of a house, which had been whitened ; as soon as they perceived a fly to settle on the wall, they darted with astonishing rapidity at it, and most generally were successful, when they returned with it to their old station. If disappointed in their aim, they flew to the ground, and did not go to the branch again till they had retrieved their loss ; they continued to frequent the same spot till the third week in September, since which we have not seen them.

In the same tree, the wryneck and the spotted fly-catcher also bred, and at the bottom of the stump, which is on the side of a pond, was the nest of the yellow wagtail.

We never noticed any other kind of note than the one before named ; its general habits and manners correspond very nearly with those of the whin-chat and stone-chat. We are unacquainted with its eggs.

Provincial name Coldfinch.



Motacilla vulgaris

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. July 1841

MOTACILLA VULGARIS.

COMMON WAGTAIL.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, very soft, and slightly notched near the end.
Tongue fringed at the tip.

Legs slender.

Toes three forward, one behind, the centre one connected to the outer one as far as the first joint; the hind toe and claw long.

Tail very long.

SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA VULGARIS. *W. Curtis, Mss.*

MOTACILLA ALBA. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 331. 11. Lath.*
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 501. 1.

WHITE WAGTAIL. *Br. Zool. 1. 142. tab. 55. Ib. fol.*
104. Lath. Syn. 4. p. 395. 1.
Ib. supt. p. 178. Mont. Orn. Diff.
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 203.

COLLARED WAGTAIL. *Lath. Syn. 4. p. 396.*

“THE COMMON WAGTAIL is in length about seven inches and a half, and in breadth ten inches and a half, and it weighs about three-quarters of an ounce; this bird is too well known to require further description. The colours are disposed alike in both sexes, those of the female are considerably duller, and the tail of the latter is not so long by near an inch.

“ In

“ In winter they lose the black on the throat and chin, which at that season become white, and in this state have been considered as a variety ; but it is a change that constantly takes place at that period of the year, and they regain their former plumage early in the spring.”

Its nest is composed of moss and dry fibres, interwoven with wool, and lined with hair and feathers ; they lay four or five white eggs, spotted with various tints of brown ; they very nearly resemble in colour those of the cuckoo, which frequently deposits her egg in the nest of this bird ; they are very attentive to their young, and use many little arts to divert attention from the nest, they are very bold in its defence, and attack the cuckoo, and endeavour to drive her from it ; though they do not seem to discover the addition in the nest made by this bird, yet they will industriously remove any small substance that may have been put into the nest ; they usually build on the ground among stones, also in holes in banks and trees, and we found one this season (1811) in the aperture above the handle of a pump that was out of use, in a gravel-pit between Camberwell and Brixton.

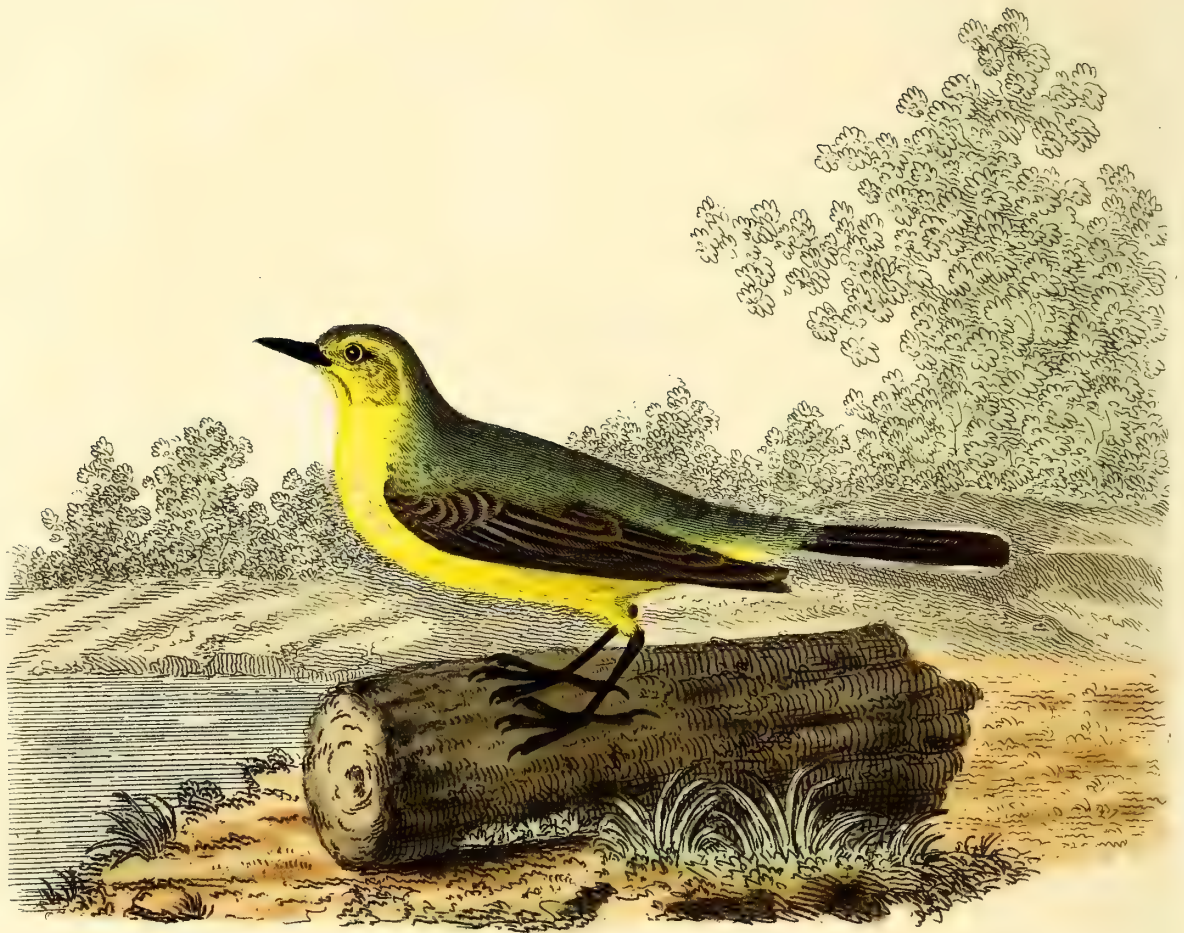
The Wagtail is a lively active bird, and is very plentiful throughout this country ; it makes partial migrations from the interior to the coast, as the weather becomes severe, but we believe never quits this kingdom ; its usual haunts are shallow pools or streams, where it meets with abundance of insects, which it takes in the manner of the fly-catcher, by jumping at them as they pass over ; it wades in shallow parts, and is very industrious in the search after those species of insects that run on the surface of the water ; it also frequents new ploughed land, sheep-folds, and cattle-pens, where the insects
are

are continually roused by the motions of those animals ; its flight is remarkably undulating, and is considerably accelerated by the continued jerkins of its tail ; it makes but short flights at one time.

During the breeding season it has a very pretty note, by which its retreat is discovered ; it is one of those birds which pursue the hawk tribe, and on the appearance of which it gives the alarm by loud and repeated screams. It is in the habit of rolling in the dust, immediately after which it goes into the water, and in a few minutes comes out very clean ; it is infested by an insect similar to that which attacks the swallow, and we have no doubt but its rolling in the dust and washing, assists in removing it ; in dissecting a Wagtail lately, one of these insects crawled on the hand, to which it adhered so firmly, that we were under the necessity of using the point of the knife to remove it.







Motacilla flava.

Pub. by G. Graves Walworth July 1862.

MORTACILLA FLAVA.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Mortacilla vulgaris*.

SYNONYMS.

MORTACILLA FLAVA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 33. 12. *Ind.*
Orn 2. p. 504. 8.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 143. *Ib. fol.* 105.
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 396. *tab. F. Lath. Syn.*
4. p. 400. 6. *Ib. Supt.* p. 179. *Mont.*
Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br. Birds,
Pt. 1. p. 206.

THIS delicate lively bird is seven inches in length, nine and a half in breadth, and weighs about ten drams. Bill sharp-pointed, having a notch in the upper mandible near the tip; irides dark hazel; legs and claws slender, the hind claw nearly straight, about twice the length of the others. The colours of both sexes are disposed alike, but those of the female are less lively than in the male.

In elegance of shape, delicacy of colour, and liveliness of manners, this bird is rarely surpassed; it is the most common of the genus in many parts of this country, and is readily distinguished from the other species by its flight, which is not so undulated as the Common or White,
and

and much quicker than the Grey Wagtail, with which species this is frequently confounded; the note of the Yellow is not so shrill nor drawn out to such a length as those of the other species.

The Yellow Wagtail arrives in this country from the 14th of March to the 1st of April, and it quits about the latter-end of September or beginning of October, and retire southwards; but it is said to remain throughout the year in some parts of France, and also in the Sicilies. It nestles usually on the ground; the nest is composed of dried stalks, grass, and horse-hair; it lays four or five pale-brown eggs, splashed with dusky; the young at first have scarcely any appearance of yellow, except under the throat. They are very tenacious of the nest, and will hover round the vicinity of it for a great length of time, rather than discover their retreat to an observer; we have seen the female, with a worm in her bill for more than an hour, flying with the greatest anxiety over the heads of some mowers who were at work near the nest, nor did she attempt to venture to it, till after they had quitted the field.

It usually affects drier situations than the other species, frequenting commons, pastures, and corn fields; it feeds on worms and insects, and may often be seen running round cattle whilst feeding, and will often seize a fly from off the nose of a cow or horse; in cold damp weather numbers of them resort to pastures in quest of worms, which are at that time roused by the trampling of the cattle; their more common food (insects) at such times being but scantily to be met with.



Sylvia rubecula.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1 Dec 1821

SYLVIA RUBECULA.

REBBREAST.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sylvia luscinia*.

SYNONYMS.

SYLVIA RUBECULA. *Ind. Orn.* 520.

MOTACILLA RUBECULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 337. 45.

REDBREAST. *Br. Zool.* 147. *Ib. fol.* 100. *tab. S. fig.* 2.

Lath Syn. 4. p. 442. 38. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 216.

EGG. *Ovarium. Brit. Pt. 1.*

THIS species is in length five inches and a half, and in breadth eight inches and a half, and it weighs about ten drams; the Redbreast is too common to require further description. Both sexes are alike in colour.

The REDBREAST builds early in April, and forms its nest usually in the hollow of an old tree, generally near the ground, it will sometimes build in an out-house or in a mossy bank; the nest is composed of moss, small dry stalks and leaves, and lined with hair; they lay from six to eight eggs, of an opaque whitish brown colour spotted with light and dark brown, the largest spots are of the deepest colour; the young for the first two or three months are spotted, and may readily pass for some other species; they do not attain their full plumage till after the first moult.

At the approach of winter these birds forsake the woods, as they no longer contain a supply of insects, they then repair to our habitations, picking up such insects as the garden affords; as the weather becomes more severe, they, by their actions, seem to implore our further protection; they advance at first with great caution, to pick such crumbs

as

as may have fallen on the floor, but they soon throw off this reserve, and what at first they obtain by permission, they presently seem to claim as their right; they in short soon become troublesome, and are scarcely to be frightened away; should by chance two find their way into the same room, they immediately begin fighting; they are at all times of a jealous quarrelsome disposition, which oftentimes occasions their captivity. Persons in the practice of catching these birds, place one in a cage, the outside of which is besmeared with birdlime, and fix the cage in a situation likely to be seen by the wild birds; as soon as the prisoner hears the note of another bird, it begins to chirp, and the wild Robins immediately repair to the spot and fly on the cage eager for a contest, the confined one instigated by the same passion, flies to the side of the cage, and does all in its power to injure its adversary, who presently becomes fatigued, owing to its wings being clogged with the birdlime; the person engaged in the pursuit, soon puts an end to the contest, by taking away the bird now rendered incapable of flying, and the one in confinement is again ready for action.

In the autumn they keep close at the heels of the gardener, examining the earth as it is turned over with scrutinizing eye, for the lava of small insects or worms; we have repeatedly observed them alight on the shoulder of a person engaged in a garden, they will also come on being called; these habits have in most countries given it familiar names, "about Bornholm it is called Tommi Liden; in Norway, Peter Ronsinad; in Germany, Thomas Geirdner; and with us Robin Redbreast or Ruddock."



Sylvia rubicola.

Pub. by G. Graves Watworth Dec. 5. 1821.

SYLVIA RUBICOLA.

STONE-CHAT.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sylvia luscinia*.

SYNONYMS.

SYLVIA RUBICOLA. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 523. 49.

MOTACILLA RUBICOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 332. 17.

STONE CHAT. *Br. Zool.* 1. 159. *Ib. fol.* 103. *tab. S.*

2. *fig.* 5, 6. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 448. 46.

Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br.*

Birds, Pt. 1. p. 240.

EGG. *Ovarium. Brit. Pt.* 1.

THE weight of this species is about half an ounce, breadth eight inches, length nearly five; bill broad at the base, point sharp, slightly notched near the tip; irides dark; the first four quill feathers terminate in points, the others are nearly square at the tips. In the female, the head is of the same colour as the back; she has no white on the rump, but in other respects corresponds in colour with the male.

The STONE-CHAT is to be met with in most parts of this country, frequenting commons and places abounding with furze, in such situations it breeds; its nest is composed of moss and bents, sparingly lined with hair and feathers; it lays five or six blue eggs, faintly spotted at the larger end; the nest is generally placed on the ground, at the bottom of a furze bush; it is very attentive to its young, and is particularly tenacious of the nest.

This

This species is one of our earliest breeders, frequently laying the first week in April, at which time its note is very lively, though not of any length; it ceases to sing after the first week in June; its song is generally uttered when on wing, and mostly while in the act of descending. Its principal food is worms and insects, the latter it seizes in the manner of the fly-catchers, by springing at them as they fly over it, and then returns to the same spot to wait the appearance of some other. It hops and also runs on the ground in the manner of the Lark.

Its provincial names are Blackey-Top, Stone-Smith, Moor-Titling, Black-Cap, and Stone-Smith.



Caprimulgus Europæus.

Pub. by G. Graves Walworth July 1812.

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS.

EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, hooked at the end; gape very wide, extending beyond the eyes; upper mandible furnished with a row of stiff bristles along the edges.

Tongue pointed, entire.

Legs short and scaly.

Toes connected by a membrane as far as the first joint, middle claw ferrated.

Tail composed of ten feathers.

SYNONYMS.

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 346. 1.

Ind. Orn. 2. p. 584. 5. *W. Curtis*
Mss.

NOCTURNAL GOATSUCKER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 173. *tab.* 59.

Ib. fol. 97. *tab.* R. 1.

EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 437. *A.*

Hist. Selborne. p. 62. 94. *Lath. Syn.*

4. p. 593. 5. *Ib. supt.* p. 194. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

Pt. 1. p. 265.

LENGTH exceeding ten inches; breath nearly eighteen; weight about three ounces. Bill small and weak; mouth large; irides large and dark; legs scaly, short, feathered below the knees; the inner edge of the centre claw curiously ferrated.

ferrated. The general colour of the female is like the male, but the male has an oval white spot on the two outside tail feathers.

The Goatfucker arrives in this country early in May, and remains through the summer, leaving us towards the end of September or beginning of October ; it lays on the ground without any appearance of nest, two oblong-oval eggs (larger than those of a blackbird) most beautifully varied with light and dark brown, interspersed with ash colour, not greatly unlike the elegant markings of the bird ; the eggs are frequently placed on a decayed plant of fern. While incubating, the male is very attentive to his mate, bringing her insects and keeping watch in case of danger ; but we never observed it take to the eggs during the absence of the female.

During the day, it resorts to low woods and coppices, where it remains till the dusk of evening, when it goes in quest of food, which consist of beetles, moths, and other insects, particularly the chaffer, these it does not swallow immediately, but after it has collected a quantity in its mouth it retires to devour them, first disgorging and then swallowing them singly. Whilst flying it utters a shrill squeak, and often strikes its wings together, which make a smart snapping noise ; this is usually made when alarmed ; in perching it does not place itself across a branch, but rests its whole body along the tree, which makes it very difficult to find, where it utters a loud noise, resembling the brisk turning of a spinning-wheel ; if roused in the day-time it flies badly and frequently stuns itself against trees, but in the evening and in moonlight nights it sports on wing in the same manner and
with

with almost as much agility as the swallow. Sometimes, when flying with great swiftness, they will close their wings and drop to the ground in an instant ; we have repeatedly attempted to surprize them in this state, but, in general, they are too quick ; we rather suppose they descend in this manner to seize some insect, which their superior power of sight enables them to perceive, though at a distance.

This species is very abundant on Sydenham-Common and the wood in its vicinity, we have seen a dozen or more together flying about like swallows ; they are met with also in the neighbourhoods of Hornsey, Coome-Wood, Enfield-Chace, and several other places within a few miles of London ; it is dispersed all over the kingdom.

The intelligent author of the History of Selborne, when speaking of the agility of this bird, says: “ A Fern Owl, this evening (August 27) showed off in a very unusual and entertaining manner, by hawking round and round the circumference of my great spreading oak for twenty times following, keeping mostly close to the grass, but occasionally glancing up amidst the boughs of the tree. This amusing bird was then in pursuit of a brood of some particular plicilæna belonging to the oak, of which there are several forts, and exhibiting on the occasion a command of wing superior I think to that of the swallow itself.

“ When a person approaches the haunts of fern owls in an evening, they continue flying round the head of the obtruder ; and by striking their wings together above their backs, in the manner that the pigeons called smiters are known to do, make
a smart

a smart snap ; perhaps at that time they are jealous of their young ; and their noise and gestures are intended by way of menace."

Our figure was executed for the late W. CURTIS.

Its provincial names, Night-Hawk, Dorr-Hawk, Fern-Owl, Churn-Owl, Goat-Owl, Wheel-Bird, Night-Jarr, and Night-Swallow.



Columba Palumbus.

Published March 21 1812 by W. & A. Waller.

COLUMBA PALUMBUS.

RING - DOVE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill weak and slender.

Nostrils placed in a soft protuberance that covers the base of the bill.

Tongue entire.

Toes "divided to their origin."

SYNONYMS.

COLUMBA PALUMBUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 282. 19. *Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 601. 32. *W. Curtis's Mss.*

RING-PIGEON. *Br. Zool.* 1. 102. *Ib. fol.* 89. *tab.* O.

Arch. Zool. 2. p. 329. *tab.* B. *Lath.*

Syn. 4. p. 635. 29. *Ib. sup.* p. 198.

RING-DOVE. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br.*

Birds, Pt. 1. p. 272.

THIS species is about eighteen inches in length, in breadth twenty-nine, and its usual weight is nearly twenty ounces. Bill very soft; irides yellow; legs feathered below the knee; the female is rather less, but corresponds in colour with the male.

The Wood-Pigeon (as it is usually called) begins its nest early in the spring; it is loosely formed of small sticks, and is of such a flimsy texture, that the eggs may generally be seen through

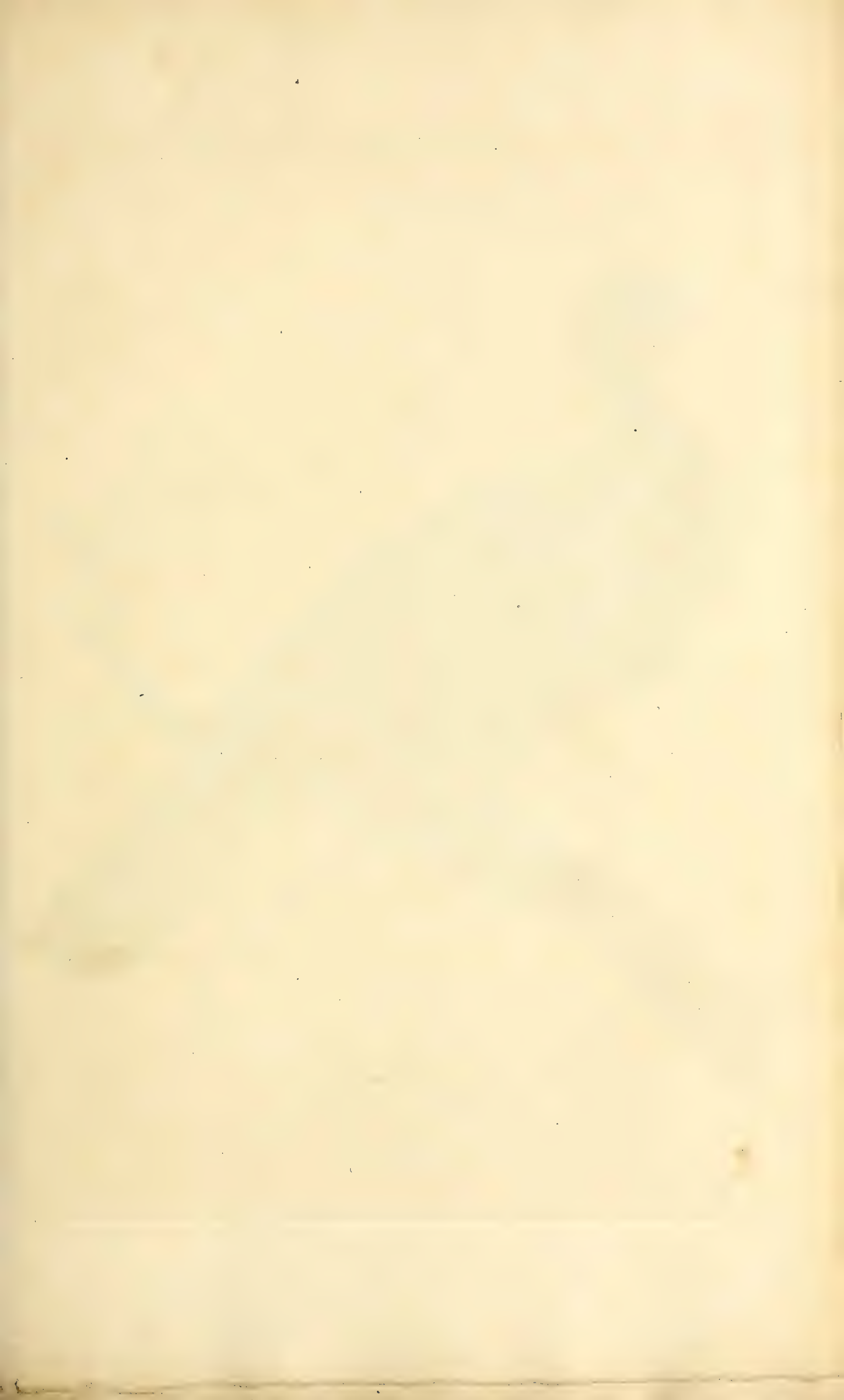
through it ; it lays only two eggs, which are white, of an exact oval form, and constantly produce a male and female ; the young are attended to by the parents till able to provide for themselves.

These birds are very injurious to the farmer, as they devour an amazing quantity of seed and pulse ; of the latter they are so particularly fond, that a common mode of taking them is by steeping a quantity of tares in some intoxicating mixture, which they greedily devour, and soon become stupified ; in this state great numbers are frequently caught for the supply of our markets. They also feed on beech-mast, acorns, ivy-berries, the leaves of turnips, and clover.

Ring-Doves are common in most parts of this country, in winter they associate in very large flocks ; they are generally supposed to migrate, but as we meet with them at all seasons of the year, it is very doubtful whether they make more than partial migrations from one part of this country to the other. During winter they resort to woods, and roost on the highest trees. Frequent endeavours have been made to domesticate this species, but without effect.

Our figure was executed for the late W. CURTIS.

Its provincial names are Wood-Pigeon, Wood-Cover, Wood-Cushet, Cushat, Queest, and Culver.





Tetrao Urogallus.

Pub. by G. Graves Walworth Jan 4 1843.

Warner. Sc.

TETRAO UROGALLUS.

WOOD GROUS.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, short, and very strong.

Skin over the eyes bare.

Nostrils covered with feathers.

Tongue entire, pointed.

Legs feathered.

Claws concave.

SYNONYMS.

TETRAO UROGALLUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 273. 1. *Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 634. 1.

COCK OF THE WOOD OR MOUNTAIN. *Albin's Birds,*

2. *tab.* 29, 30.

WOOD OR GREAT GROUS. *Br. Zool.* 1. 92. *tab.* 40.

41. *Ib. fol. M. M. Arch. Zool.* 2. p.

312. *A. Ib. supt.* p. 62. *Lath. Syn.*

4. p. 729. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.*

1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p.* 294.

IN size this species exceeds all our native land birds excepting the bustard; it varies very considerably in weight and size; the one from which our figure was executed, is the largest specimen we remember to have seen; it measures three feet
one

one inch and a half in length, seven feet five inches in breadth, and weighed fifteen pounds two ounces and a half ; its weight is usually from nine to twelve pounds, and the length but seldom exceeds two feet eight to ten inches.

Bill nearly three inches long, very strong, the upper mandible projecting, and hooked as in birds of prey ; irides yellowish ; skin over the eye bare, of a brilliant scarlet colour, which after the breeding season changes to dull purple ; feathers on the chin and throat long and ruffed ; tail composed of eighteen feathers, much rounded at the extremity ; legs strong, covered with hair-like feathers to the toes, the edges of which are very strongly pectinated ; claws short and blunt. A figure of the female will appear in a future number.

This species is nearly extinct in Great-Britain ; two instances of its being killed in Scotland within these few years, are the only satisfactory accounts we have received of its being recently found in these kingdoms. One was killed by a gentleman (of the name of HENDERSON) near Fort-William, about six years ago, and sent to Dundee ; but the vessel that conveyed it to London, was detained so long on the passage, that the bird became so putrid that only the head and legs could be preserved. The other specimen was shot by Captain STANTON, near Burrowstone-Nefs, two winters ago ; they were both males ; some few are said to be yet remaining in the pine forests of Scotland, and also in the mountainous parts of Ireland.

The Wood Grouse is principally confined to extensive tracts of pine wood, in the north of Europe ; it is also met with in Italy and on the Alps ; it feeds on the seeds and young leaves
of

of fir, which give its flesh, very frequently, so strong a taste, as to render it unfit for the table.

Dr. LATHAM mentions “ that he is well informed, the nest of one found in Scotland, was placed on a Scotch fir ;” the female generally chooses a retired spot, and lays from eight to sixteen white eggs, spotted with yellow, on the ground among the grass, and is said to cover the eggs with leaves during her absence from the nest ; the young run as soon as hatched.

“ The males and females live separate, except from the beginning of February, when the male, morning and evening, mounts on the stump of some old pine, with his tail spread and quills lowered to the feet, the neck protruded, and the head feathers ruffled. It makes a noise not unlike the whetting of a scythe, and repeats it alternately, and so loud, as to be heard a great way off, at the same time putting itself into strange attitudes. This is a call for his seraglio of females, who attend the summons ; and this he continues to the end of March or beginning of April.”

Our figure was executed from an uncommon fine specimen in the collection of Mr. LEADBEATER, Brewer-Street, Golden-Square.

Its provincial names are Cock of the Wood, Mountain-Cock, Capercalze, Caperkally, or Capercaile.







Larus stellaris.

Pub by G. Graves Wabworth Dec. 1812.

ARDEA STELLARIS.

BITTERN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Ardea Major.*

SYNONYMS.

ARDEA STELLARIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 239. 21.

BITTERN. *Br. Zool.* 2. 174. *Ib. fol.* 711. *tab. A.* 1.
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 680. 18. *Lath. Syn.*
5. p. 57. 17. *Ib. sup.* p. 234.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's*
Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 57.

THE BITTERN is in length about thirty inches, in breadth nearly four feet, and it weighs from two pounds twelve ounces to three pounds. Bill flattened on the sides the whole length, it is very strong and sharp, the upper mandible curves towards the point; gape extending beyond the eyes; irides yellow; "feathers on the hind-head, neck, and breast, long and loose;" tail short, composed of twelve feathers; legs and claws very strong, the hind claw being nearly two inches long, the centre one is serrated three fourths of its length on the inner side.

The female is somewhat less, and the colours are not so bright, neither are the feathers on the neck and breast so long or loose as in the male.

The

The Bittern, though not numerous, is dispersed through the whole of this country, its habits are very solitary, seldom more than a pair frequent our most extensive marshes ; this may in some degree be occasioned by the great quantity of food it consumes ; in one dissected in the course of the present year, the intestines were completely full, containing the remains of four eels, several water-newts, a short-tailed field mouse, three frogs, two buds of the water-lily, and some other vegetable substances. It seems particularly attached to its nesting-place, and will return many years in succession to the same place to breed.

This species builds in low swampy places, where there is plenty of shelter, such as high grass, rushes, and other rank herbage ; the nest is composed of a large quantity of long coarse green vegetables, and is lined with dry sedge and leaves ; it lays four or five greenish olive-coloured eggs ; the young are at first covered with thick matted down, and are assiduously attended to till able to provide for themselves by their parents, who alternately keep guard over the nest or go in pursuit of the slippery inhabitants of the stagnant pool, which are the principal food of the young ones ; at this time the whole attention of the old birds seems devoted to feed and protect them ; should the nest be attacked by birds of prey, they make desperate resistance, flying up at their assailant, and then throwing themselves on their back, oppose the enemy with their formidable bills and claws, and seldom fail of driving their opponent from the nest : when full grown, they feed on eels, small fish, frogs, mice, moles, the smaller species of reptiles ; and on the failure of these, they greedily devour the
roots

roots and feeds of aquatic plants. While they have young they seem quite devoid of fear, the sportsman nor his dog are not able to make them quit their charge, "but if wounded, eye them with keen undaunted looks," and when closely pressed, defend themselves with the greatest vigour to the last extremity, often inflicting severe wounds with their bill; they aim particularly at the eyes, and if approached sufficiently near without their being too much disabled, frequently make the conquest dearly purchased.

As the whole of this tribe make the eye the principal object of aim when wounded, the following melancholy circumstance may serve to put persons on their guard, while engaged in the pursuit of any of this genus: in the month of January 1811, a farmer's man, on going to work in the farm-yard, through which ran a small stream, observed a common Heron standing on the side of the water-course, surprised at the unusual tameness of the bird, which did not attempt to fly at his approach, and, not thinking of the cause that detained it, (there having been a very severe frost that morning) he threw a large stick at it, which struck the legs immediately above the ice and broke them short off: overjoyed at his easy conquest, he hastened to take possession of his prize, the bird on his near approach drew back its head, and when the man stooped to take it up, darted its bill quite through the eye, which it completely destroyed; the man lingered in the most excruciating torture but a few days, and fell a victim to his own imprudence.

In the spring the Bittern may be discovered by its note at a great distance, which it has erroneously been supposed to make
by

by thrusting its bill into the cavity of a dry reed and blowing therein; the noise is however made when it is in an erect position, and seems to be caused by the bird's blowing hard through its bill, which at that time is nearly closed; it is very loud and not much unlike the noise occasioned by beating on the head of an empty cask: Goldsmith happily describes the haunts and noise of this bird, in his admirable poem, "The Deserted Village:"

Along thy glades a solitary guest,
The hollow-sounding Bittern guards its nest.

During the breeding season, the male bird is said to ascend spirally to a great height, when it utters a loud bleating noise; its notes or calls have been long noticed, and account for some of its curious provincial names, as Bog-Beater, Bog-Bumper, Mire-Drum, Butter-Bump, Bittour, Bumpy-Crofs, and Bitter-Bum.

Our specimen was shot whilst flying over the river Cam; the nest was found near the spot where the bird fell, which contained four young birds and an addled egg.

PLATALEA LEUCORODIA.

WHITE SPOON-BILL.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

“ Bill long, broad, flat, and thin, the end widening into a roundish form, not unlike a spoon.
Nostrils, small, placed near the base.
Tongue, small and pointed.
Feet, semipalmated.” *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

SYNONYMS.

PLATALEA LEUCORODIA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 231. 1. *Ind.*
Orn. 2. p. 667. 1.

SPOON-BILL. *Albin's Birds*, 2. tab. 66. *Bewick's Br.*
Birds, Pt. 2. p. 38.

WHITE SPOON-BILL. *Br. Zool. App. tab.* 9. *Arct.*
Zool. 2. p. 441. *A. Suppt.* p. 66.
Lath. Syn. 5. p. 13. 1. *Mont. Orn.*
Dict. Vol. 2.

“ **L**ENGTH two feet eight inches, weight three pounds and a half.” Bill near seven inches long, thin and pliable, furnished with a small nail; the upper mandible has a number of irregular protuberances on its surface; irides reddish hazel; feathers on the hind-head long, frequently forming a crest; lore and throat bare and black; legs long, covered with a thick coarse scaly skin; toes connected by a membrane as far as the second joint of the outer and first of the inner toe. In our specimen which is a native one, there is a slight tinge of pale pink under the shoulder.

This

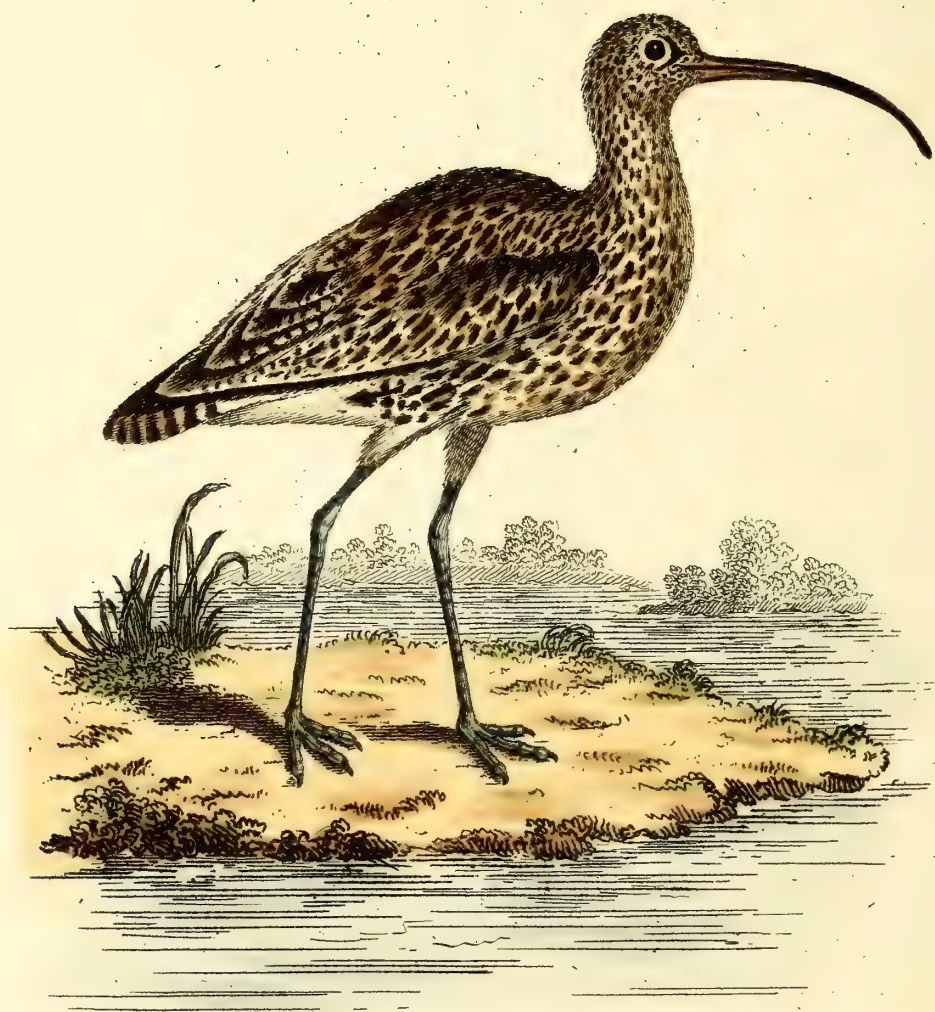
This species but rarely visits England, only two instances of its being met with have come to our immediate knowledge, these were seen by a friend of the author's in the neighbourhood of Lewes, in Suffex, nearly twenty years ago. One of them was shot, which proved a male bird, and is now in a good state of preservation.

A pair of Spoon-Bills were kept a few years ago by E. J. A. WOODFORD, Esq. of Belmont-House, Vauxhall; which were very tame and would feed from the hand; their food was worms, slugs, the produce of a fish-pond, and hemp seed; the latter they dexterously scooped from the surface of the water.

It flies high, and when on wing utters a noise somewhat resembling the cry of the Curlew, but much louder and hoarser; it builds on trees, the nest is composed of sticks in the same manner as that of the heron or crow; the eggs are said to be four in number, of a white colour finely sprinkled with red, size about those of the common hen; during incubation they are noisy and restless.

The species is found in many parts of Europe, and in the milder provinces of Asia, Africa, and America.





Numenius arquata L.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. Dec. 1821

NUMENIUS ARQUATA,

COMMON-CURLEW.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, curved.

Nostrils linear.

Tongue short, pointed.

Toes connected to the first joint by a strong membrane.

SYNONYMS.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 710.

SCOLOPAX ARQUATA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 242.

COMMON CURLEW, *Br. Zool.* 2. 176. *tab.* 63. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 119. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 63. Mont. Orn. Dict.

THIS bird varies much in size, having been found to weigh from twenty to thirty ounces and upwards; usual length about two feet; bill from six to seven inches long, regularly curved, in substance tender, flexible at the point, which terminates abruptly; legs long, and bare of feathers to half-way up the thigh; toes thick, flat on the under side, each side of the claws is furnished with a narrow membranous edging. Colours of the female rather paler than in the male.

The

The CURLEW is a common bird, visiting our coasts in numbers during the cold months, in the spring it retires to the extensive moors and lakes in the Northern parts of the kingdom to breed. The female does not make any nest, but lays her eggs (four in number) on a tuft of rushes or dry grass; they are of a pale greenish olive colour, marked with brown spots, most numerous at the large end. The young ones begin to use their legs as soon as hatched, but do not fly till after their first moulting.

There is considerable diversity of opinion in regard to the quality of the flesh of this bird, some authors assert it to be of exquisite flavour, others quite the reverse; this may be accounted for, by the different kinds of food the bird lives on; those taken inland are of a very fine flavour, whilst those on the sea shore are rank and fishy.

In the Island of Jersey, it is an usual diversion to shoot these birds by moon-light on the sands, their time of feeding being principally at night; it is not a little remarkable, that the birds taken on that coast, have not the same offensive taste as those which are found on our shores.

The Curlew is of a wild and shy nature, and is by no means easy of approach; but in captivity it soon loses its natural timidity, and may be kept like the Lapwing, in gardens, where it readily devours snails, worms, and slugs; they are frequently brought alive to the London markets by fishermen.





F. Leitch

Scolopax rusticola.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth Row, 1861.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA.

WOODCOCK.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, long, and slender, the upper mandible extending somewhat beyond the lower.

Nostrils linear, placed in a furrow.

Tongue pointed.

Toes in some species divided to their base, in others they are connected nearly as far as the first joint.

Hind toe small.

SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 243. 6. *Ind.*
Orn. 2. p. 713. 1.

WOODCOCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 178. *tab.* 65. *Ib. fol.* 119.
Lath. Syn. 5. p. 129. 1. *Mont. Orn.*
Diët. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.*
p. 68.

THE WOODCOCK is about fifteen inches in length, twenty-seven in breadth, and weighs from twelve to sixteen ounces; bill three inches long, the upper mandible furrowed nearly its whole length, terminating in a small knob; eyes large, situated near the top of the head; legs short; tail formed of twelve feathers, the two centre ones rather the longest. The colours of the female are generally duller.

This

This species varies much in colour and size ; our figure represents the usual colour, but they are found much deeper, as well as paler coloured, and sometimes quite white ; it generally appears in this country the latter end of September or beginning of October, but is not usually met with in abundance till towards the end of November ; we noticed three exposed for sale in Leadenhall-Market during the first week of the present month, October.

The Woodcock but rarely breeds with us, though now and then such an instance occurs. Mr. BULLOCK has in his collection a young one taken in Suffolk ; there were two birds in the nest, but one escaped ; the young are covered with a thick down or fur, which round the neck is very long and pendant ; at first sight the young bird has much the appearance of a Bittern in miniature, as its bill is long in proportion to its size. The Woodcock lays four eggs of a grey colour, marked with ash coloured and brown spots ; those we have examined from the same nest are very different in their markings, in some the spots are so confluent, that they should rather be said to be blotched with dusky white ; the nest is usually placed in a thick coppice, immediately opposite some little break, its form and texture is very loose, it is composed of dry grass and fibres, with a few decayed leaves placed at the bottom ; the young run as soon as excluded, but the parents continue their attention till they are quite able to provide for themselves.

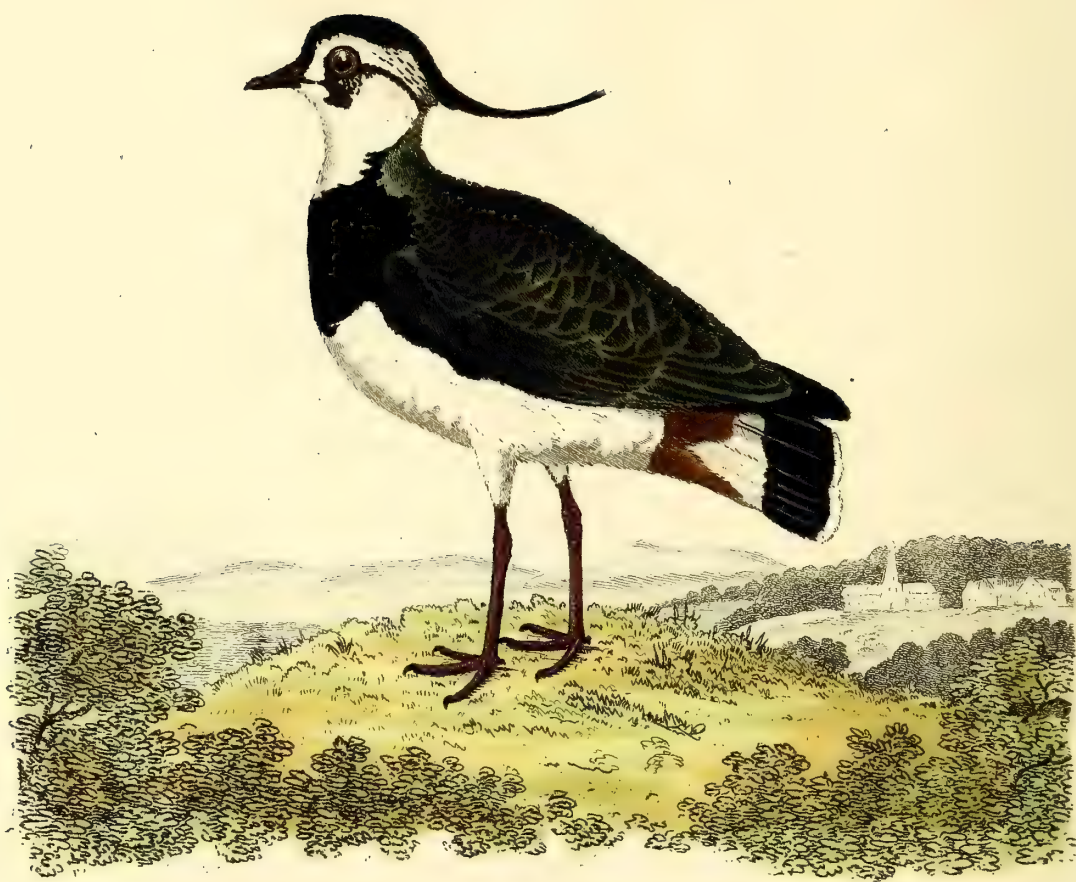
On its first arrival, this bird remains on the coast for a day or two to recruit its strength, and then returns to its favourite haunts of the preceding year ; when first roused its flight is
some-

somewhat heavy, but on being again disturbed it flies with great rapidity to a short distance, making constantly for the first break, where it drops, and then runs. Owing to the similitude of colour, this bird is not readily discovered among the dead leaves and fern at the fall of the year ; in very severe weather, when most of the little pools are frozen, it becomes much tamer than at other times ; at this season it frequently quits the interior of the country, and retires to the woody tracts in the west of England ; its food is principally worms and small aquatic insects, for the search of which its bill is most admirably adapted, the knob at the tip being furnished with a number of very minute glands susceptible of the finest feeling.

The flesh of the Woodcock being highly esteemed, it is sought after by the sportsman with the most persevering industry ; they begin to leave this country about the latter end of March, and from that time till the middle of April, they approach the coasts, and wait the first fair wind to quit their winter residences ; this species is widely dispersed through the whole European continent. They are said to breed in the woods and forests of the northern provinces ; at the decline of the year they disperse themselves over the other parts of Europe ; their migrations are usually performed during the night, in small flocks of from four to six, most probably consisting of the parent birds and brood.







Tringa vanellus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. April, 1811.

TRINGA VANELLUS.

LAPWING.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Tringa pugnax*.

SYNONYMS.

TRINGA VANELLUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 248. 2.

LAPWING OR BASTARD PLOVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 190.

Ib. fol. 122. *tab. C.* fig.* 1. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p.

161. 2. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br.*

Birds, Pt. 1. p. 318.

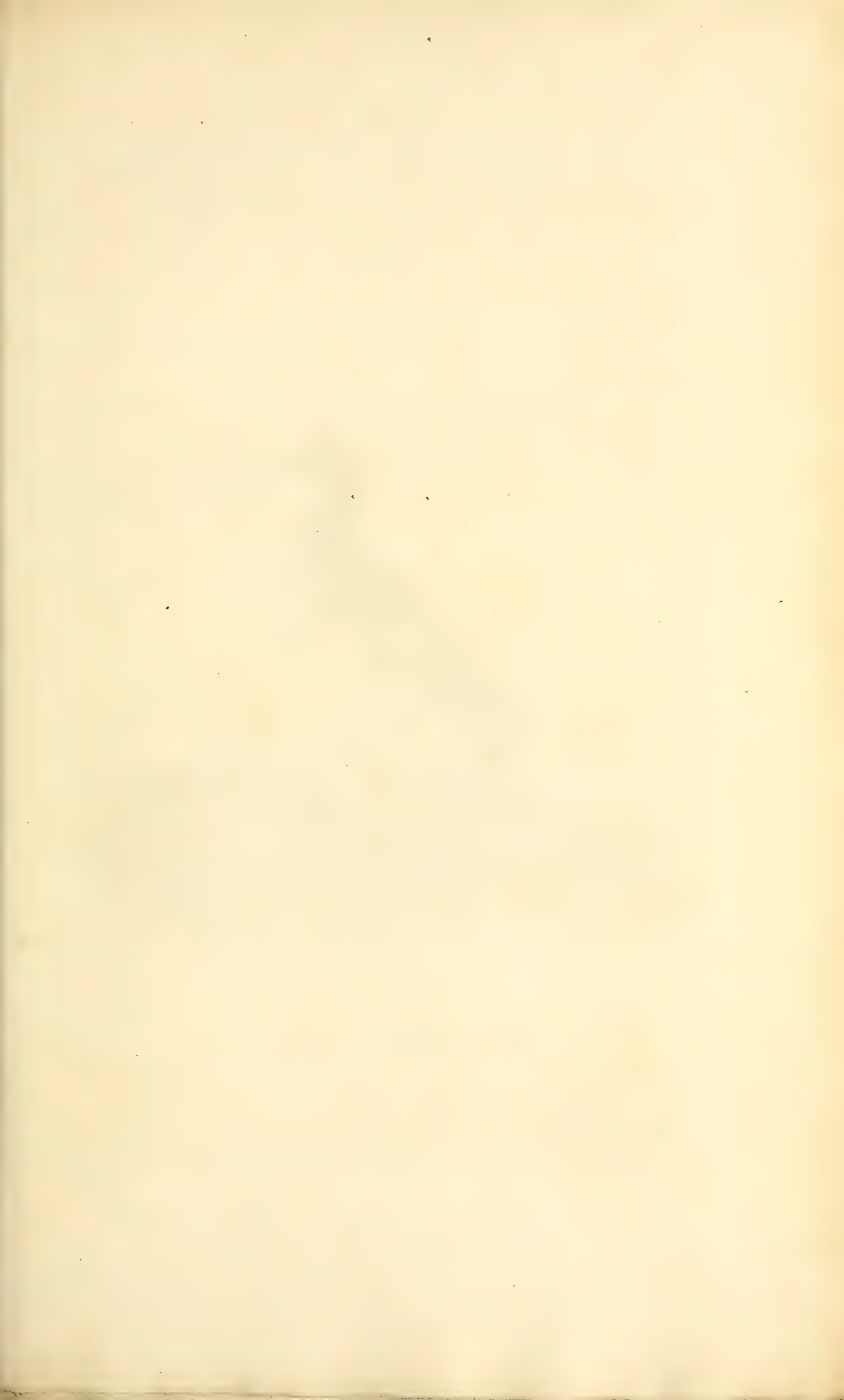
THIS species is in length about twelve inches, and in breadth near thirty inches, and weighs eight or nine ounces; bill about an inch long, the upper mandible is quite flat on the upper surface; feathers on the hind part of the head, from three to four inches long, forming a crest which inclines upwards at the tip, these feathers are remarkably narrow; irides dark hazel; legs slender; hind toe very small; the down on most parts of the body is quite black. The female differs but slightly from the male, the colours are somewhat duller, and the crest is shorter by one-third. In both sexes the feathers on the body are double.

The LAPWING is very common in most parts of the kingdom, where it readily makes itself known by its cry, which much resembles the word pee-wit, and by which name it is most generally known; it is a sprightly active bird, and is almost

almost continually in motion, sometimes sporting and basking in the sun in moist fields or heaths, or forming continued circles in the air. In autumn they assemble in considerable numbers on marshy heaths or commons, and feed on earth-worms and insects; they are of a restless disposition, and seldom stay long at one place; they will frequently leave the interior of the country, and seek the sea-shore; when they have been on the coasts for a week or two, their flesh has a very unpleasant bitter flavour, at other times they are generally esteemed; their eggs are considered as a great delicacy, and in our London markets sell for three shillings a dozen.

It does not make a nest, but deposits its eggs (four in number) on a tuft of dry grass; the eggs are of a dark olive colour, spotted with black or very dark brown; its attention to its young has often attracted observation, and it uses stratagem (as already noticed in the partridge) to induce any intruder to leave the vicinity of the eggs or young; when disturbed it rises but a little above the head of the intruding party, and continues fluttering and screaming in a tone of distress.

The young are at first covered with a dark down, mixed with long white hair; they run almost as soon as hatched, following the parents in search of food; they do not attain their full plumage till towards the end of July, nor the use of their wings until the fall of the year, which makes them an easy prey to the bald buzzard, which may most generally be seen hovering near their place of resort.





Hematopus ostralegus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth. 1. Feb. 1811.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS.

PIED OYSTER-CATCHER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, compressed, channelled.

Nostrils linear.

Tongue triangular, one-third the length of the bill.

Toes three, the outer connected to the middle one as far as the first joint, by a membrane, which completely edges the toes.

SYNONYMS.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 257.

SEA PIE OR PIED OYSTER-CATCHER. *Br. Zool.* 2. p.

213. *tab.* 74. *Latb. Syn.* 5. p. 219. *tab.* 84.

Mont. Orn. Dict.

OYSTER-CATCHER. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 23.

THE OYSTER-CATCHER is in length seventeen inches, breadth two feet six inches, it weighs from sixteen to twenty-two ounces; bill straight, about three inches long, channelled the whole length, point obtuse; thighs bare of feathers to midway above the knees; the toes have a narrow membraneous edging, which is finely ferrated, and continues rather more than half an inch up the inner side of the legs.

The principal food of this bird is oysters and limpets, which it readily detaches from the rocks with its bill; it will wait by the side of an oyster for a long time, watching its opening, and the instant the shells are observed to separate, it thrusts in
its

its bill, and makes a meal of the contents: the young ones are easily tamed, and may be brought up with domestic poultry; they are very useful in a garden, as they destroy all kinds of worms, slugs, caterpillars, and snails, the shell of the latter they perforate at one stroke with their bill, and extract the animal in an instant. Their flesh is exceedingly rank and offensive to the smell, it is covered with a thick coat of fat immediately under the skin; they are very common in our London markets; we presume they are brought there more as articles of curiosity than food, the flesh being so remarkably rancid and bitter, we conceive it hardly possible that any thing short of necessity could induce any one to eat it.

These birds are constant inhabitants of the sea-shore, in the winter they may be seen in small flocks, and are then very shy, they are seldom observed in pairs except in the breeding season; the female lays four or five eggs of a greenish colour, spotted with black, in an open dry situation, generally behind a tuft or stone, somewhat above high-water mark; she leaves the eggs entirely during the day, but is careful to sit on them closely at night; the young run about almost as soon as hatched.

They prefer wading in shallow places out of the stream, but should they be overtaken by the current and get into deep water, they do not attempt to swim, but will float therein for a considerable time, amusing themselves during their voyage, by feeding on any kind of sea-weed that may come within their reach. Like most pied birds, they are not constantly marked alike, in some the wings are nearly white, in others black, and in one instance, we have seen the bird with scarcely a white feather about it.





Charadrius Ectopneustes.

Int. by G. Gray & Walter M.D. 1841

CHARADRIUS ŒDICNEMUS.

NORFOLK PLOVER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Charadrius pluvialis*.

SYNONYMS.

CHARADRIUS ŒDICNEMUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 255. 10.

OTIS ŒDICNEMUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 661. 11.

THICK-KNEED BUSTARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 100. *Ib. fol.*

127. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 806. 1. *White's*

Hist. Selbourn, p. 43. to 88. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. Vol. 1.

STONE CURLEW. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 69.

GREAT PLOVER. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 1. p. 316.

LENGTH eighteen inches, weight from sixteen to twenty ounces: bill one inch and a half long; irides very large, which, with the orbits, are light yellow; legs long; toes short, the outer connected by a membrane to the middle one as far as the first joint; tail composed of twelve rounded feathers. Colours of the sexes alike.

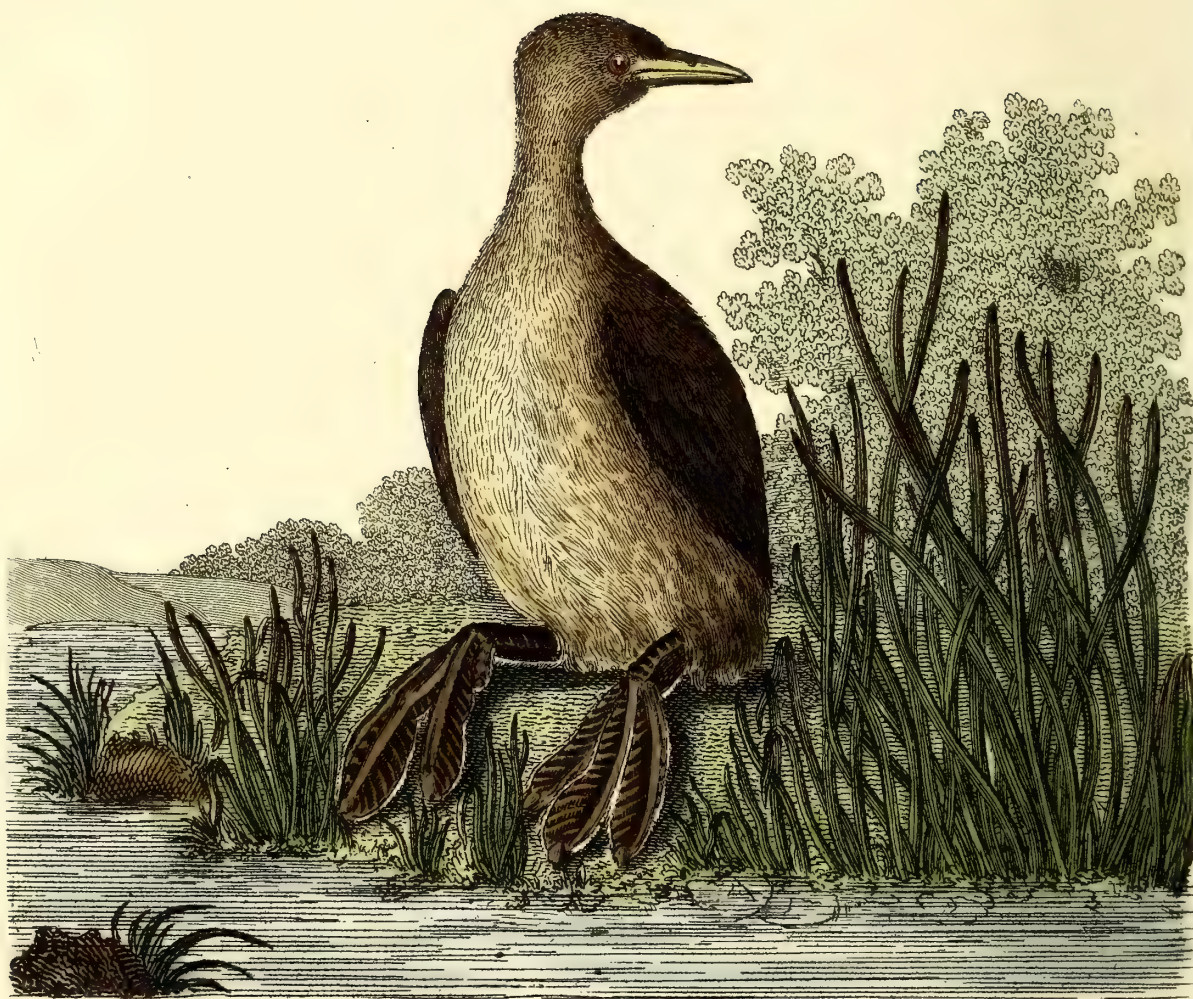
This bird is generally placed by modern authors with the Bustard family, from which it differs in not having the jugular pouch peculiar to the males of that genus, and also in the down, which in the specimens we have examined, of the species found occasionally in this country and some foreign ones, is of a pale pink colour; in this it is dark; it further differs

differs in the number of eggs, which are said to be only two, but in two specimens we examined in the spring of the present year, we found in each a considerable number, five of which were in a state to be laid in as many successive days ; one of the eggs was quite perfect, and would most probably have been laid the day it was killed ; the colour of the egg was greenish white, blotched and spotted with obscure green marks. It does not make any nest, but deposits its eggs on the bare ground, frequently in marshy places, and is said not to sit on them in the day-time, till within a few days of their being hatched ; they run as soon as excluded ; the parent birds are very tenacious of them, and practise the same kind of artifices to mislead, that are so generally adopted by the plover and sand-piper families.

The principal food of this bird is worms, slugs, snails, and insects, also the tops of green wheat and turnip leaves ; we have also found in it entire heads of clover ; it affects open situations, particularly stony hills and large commons in the vicinity of cultivated land ; its note is a loud whistle, which it repeats three or four times, and heightens the note each time. It arrives here in the month of April and quits in October.

Provincial names Stone or Land Curlew and Thick-Kneed Bustard.





Podiceps minor.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1, Dec. 1821

PODICEPS MINOR.

LITTLE GREBE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Podiceps cristatus*.

SYNONYMS.

PODICEPS MINOR *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 784. 9.

COLYMBUS MINOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 591. 20.

LITTLE GREBE. *Br. Zool.* 8vo. ed. v. 2. p. 137.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 289. 10. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 2. p. 144.

THIS species is in length from eight to ten inches, in breadth nearly sixteen inches, and weighs five to seven ounces; bill slender; irides reddish; toes fringed with a beautiful semi-transparent edging. Colours nearly alike in both sexes, varying with age.

A bird resembling, in size, the one here figured, but very much darker coloured, is now and then met with, and has been considered by some authors as a distinct species, and as such figured and described under the name of *Podiceps hebridicus*, BLACK CHIN GREBE; but from the variations the present species affect in colour, we are under doubts with regard to the specific differences supposed to exist between the species.

The

The Dabchick or Dobchick is the least species of Grebe though the most plentiful in this country, being met with in most streams and ponds, particularly such as are sedgy ; its motions are lively and active, and with care it may be rendered so tame, as to feed from the hand ; but is generally a shy bird. Its actions in and on the water are particularly graceful ; it may frequently be seen running on the surface for a considerable distance, flapping its wings and chattering, then on a sudden diving and reappearing at the spot from whence it took its departure ; we believe it is almost invariably the practice of this bird, that, when it dives, it does not, as is common with the duck tribe, continue its way forward, but returns, and by this mode is enabled to elude its pursuers, who looking for its appearance at a considerable distance forward, generally lose the object of their pursuit ; when alarmed, it dives to the first tuft of grass or rushes, and will remain with only its bill above water for a great length of time.

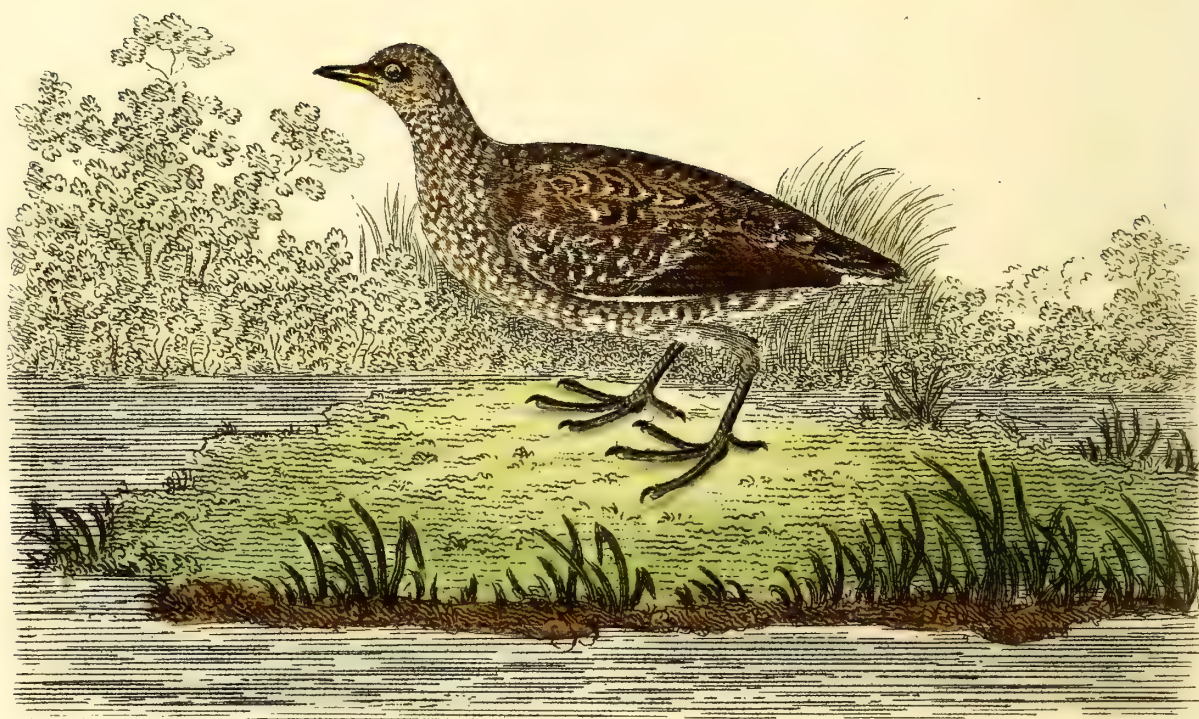
The nest is formed of so great a quantity of grass, flags, and other vegetables, that Pennant supposed it fermented, and gave warmth to the eggs ; it is woven together with the leaves and part of the stem of some tall aquatic plant, which are bent down to the surface of the water ; and by this method the nest is not liable to injury from any sudden rise of the water, and is generally secure from being carried away by the current. The Dabchick lays five or six whitish eggs, which are frequently stained by some of the vegetables with which they are covered ; the female does not sit immediately on the eggs, as there usually

usually is a quantity of rushes laid over them, that prevents the eggs from being exposed, should any sudden accident call the bird off. " They are very frequently devoured while diving in pursuit of small fish, by pike and trout ;" the eggs also afford a meal to the water-rat.

The principal food of this bird is small fish, aquatic insects, and worms ; in the winter it will live on the roots of such plants as grow by the margins of streams ; during the breeding season, the male bird may frequently be heard to utter a shrill chatter, the usual note at other seasons is a whistle quickly repeated. In the autumn they quit their inland retreats, and but few, and those late-hatched birds, are to be met with from the middle of August to the end of September, after which they return to their usual haunts ; they are said at that season to frequent the sea-shores, and to feed on shrimps.

It is supposed to be long lived, as one pair have been known to resort to the same spot for more than twenty years, where they regularly breed ; they seem not to be very easily made to quit their haunts, as when their nests have been destroyed, they have returned time after time to rebuild them ; they nestle almost always on the same spot for many years in succession.





Gallinula Porzana.

Pub. by G. Graves Watworth Dec 17821.

GALLINULA PORZANA.

SPOTTED GALLINULE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Gallinula Chloropus*.

SYNONYMS.

GALLINULA PORZANA. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 772. 19.

RALLUS PORZANA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 262. 3.

SPOTTED GALLINULE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 215. *Ib. fol.* 130.

*tab. L**. 1. *Arct. Zool. Supt.* p. 69.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 264. 18. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 2.

p. 25.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit. Pt.* 2.

THIS elegant bird is in length nine inches, in breadth about fifteen, and its weight rather exceeds four ounces. Bill three fourths of an inch long; irides light red; legs delicately slender; colour alike in both sexes; the female has not the bare skin on the forehead of so bright a colour as in the male.

The Spotted Water Hen is one of the most beautiful of our water birds; it frequents marshes and shallow streams, where it breeds; is met in greater abundance within a few miles of London, than perhaps in any other parts of this kingdom; its nest is composed of sticks, decayed grass, and rushes, and is said to be fastened to a living plant, by which it is prevented from being carried
away

away by the rising of the water ; it lays six or seven eggs about the size of a blackbird's. The young take to the water as soon as hatched, and do not require the future care of the parent ; notwithstanding which, they keep together till the ensuing autumn.

We have known this bird to breed in fields to the left of the Kent-Road, called Roll's-Meadows ; one of them was killed, after which they forsook the spot.

Few birds run with greater facility than the present, as it makes its way through the thickest herbage, or runs on the surface of the soft mud ; in the dusk of evening it may be seen searching for slugs, worms, or insects, and readily discovered by its craking call ; it flies badly, though, after being repeatedly roused, it will sometimes ascend to a considerable height.

This has generally been considered as a migratory species, but we much doubt whether that is the case, as we have repeatedly known them exposed for sale on the stalls of the London poulterers during winter, particularly in the winter of 1811—12. On the 30th of December 1811, we were for sale at one shop, and we purchased two the latter-end of the month following ; in fact, we have heard of or seen them almost every month in the year.

Its provincial names are Spotted Water-Hen, Spotted Rail, Lesser Spotted Water-Rail, Skitty, and Water-Crake.





Recurvirostra Avocetta.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. Nov. 1821.

RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA.

AVOCET.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, slender, tapering to the point, curving upwards.

Nostrils narrow, pervious.

Tongue short, entire.

Legs long.

Feet palmated to near the extremity of the toes.

Back-Toe small.

SYNONYMS.

RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA. *Lin. Syst.* 156. *ed.* 1.

SCOOPING AVOCET. *Br. Zool.* 2. *p.* 228. *tab.* 80. *Lath.*

Syn. 5. 293. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

AVOCET. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p.* 147.

THIS, the only species of AVOCET found in this country, is in length nearly eighteen inches, to the extremity of the toes twenty-two inches, and from tip to tip of the wings thirty, weighs twelve to fourteen ounces, bill three inches and a half in length, of a very curious form, "looking" as Bewick aptly observes "not unlike flexible pieces of flat whalebone, curved upwards to the tip;" thighs bare half-way up. Toes three before, connected by a very strong membrane, which is slightly serrated at the edges, and deeply indented in the centre; hind toe very short.

This bird inhabits the sea shores of Southern Europe, breeds in most of our fenny counties; may frequently be observed in
the

the winter in small flocks, at the mouths of rivers, in search of worms and marine insects, which they scoop out of the mud or sand, at the same time making a noise with their bills similar to that made by ducks, when engaged in the same pursuit. Latham informs us, "they lay two eggs, the size of those of a pigeon, of a cinerous grey, singularly marked with deep brownish dark patches, of irregular sizes and shapes, besides some under markings of a dusky hue."

They are very tenacious of their young, will counterfeit lameness, and exert themselves to the utmost, in endeavouring to divert the attention of an intruder from their nest; when a flock is disturbed, they immediately take wing, "stretching out their necks and extending their legs behind," and continue to flutter about the spectator, in a manner similar to the Lapwing, uttering at the same time a yelping cry of *twit, twit*.

Their motions are lively and active, seldom remaining for any length of time in the same spot: though web-footed they seldom go beyond wading depth; should they get into deep water, they seem to make no exertion to swim, but float for miles without any appearance of fatigue, and reach the shore merely by the force of the current.





Larus Canus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. March 1877.

LARUS CANUS.

COMMON GULL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* *Larus marinus*.

SYNONYMS.

LARUS CANUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 224. 3.

COMMON GULL, *Br. Zool.* 2. 249. *tab.* 89. *fol.* 2. *Lath.*
Syn. 6. p. 378. 8. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 197.

THIS species is in length about seventeen inches, in breadth about three feet, and weighs near sixteen ounces. We feel considerable difficulty in giving the specific characters of this genus; the distinguishing marks are scarcely to be described, as they consist of such trifling minutia, that it is only on the aggregate the species can be fixed. The different plumage these birds assume at their different periods of age, has occasioned confusion in the works of most ornithological writers, in many instances species have been formed from the same bird at different ages; the accuracy of our figures we hope will considerably assist in distinguishing the species, as they will be generally coloured from birds of mature age.

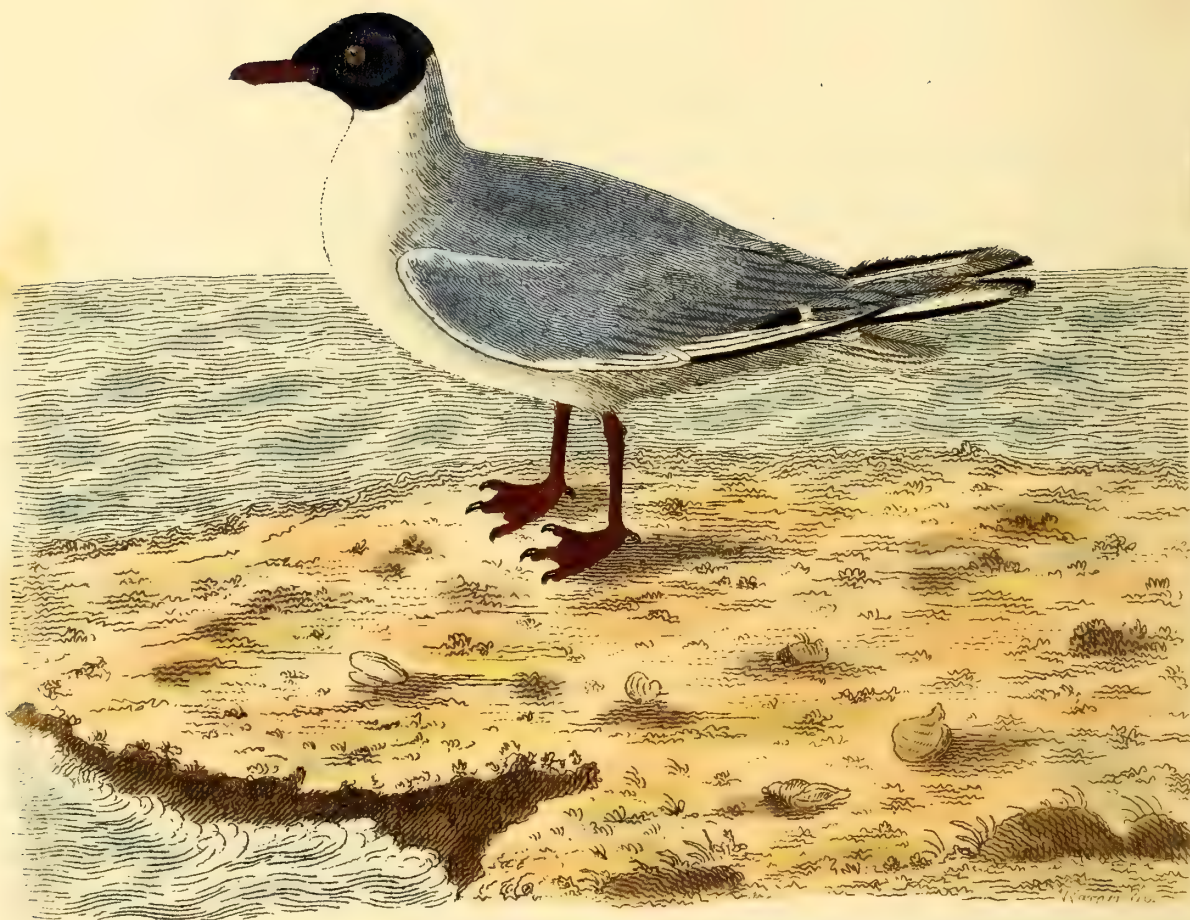
Mr. Montague, to whose researches we have so often referred, has perhaps taken more pains to elucidate this subject than any other person, having kept the different species till they have

have arrived at maturity, which is seldom in less than two, and often more than three years, and by this means has been able to correct numerous errors that have crept into the works of most of the preceding writers.

The present species is the most common of the Gulls on our coasts, and is to be met with in considerable numbers on most parts of our shores; they feed on all kinds of animal matter thrown up by the tide, or discovered floating on the surface of the ocean; filling up the same place on the shores of the sea, as the carrion crow does in the interior of the land, as no substance is too putrid to afford them a meal; they may be seen in winter associating with rooks and crows, searching for worms and insects frequently at a great distance from the sea; the whole genus is invariably gluttonous, frequently taking so much food as not to be able to fly till they have disgorged part of their repast, this they readily do upon any fright; it is not uncommon for them to bring up a large quantity of undigested food when slightly wounded.

The nest of the Gull is formed of sea-weed, at the distance of a few feet from the water, and is mostly placed on a shelving rock; they lay two or three eggs of an olivaceous brown, blotched with red spots; they are about the size of those of a common hen.

This species is sometimes eaten by persons resident on the coast, and we have heard it described as good food; previous to its being dressed, it is skinned and buried in a cloth for one or two days.



Sarus ridibundus.

Tab. 2. v. G. Graves. Waterbury's Birds.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS.

BLACK-HEADED GULL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Larus marinus*.

SYNONYMS.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 225. 9. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 811. 2.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 252. *Ib. fol.* 143. *tab. L.* 5. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 445. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 380. 9. *Ib. sup.* p. 268. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 2. p. 200.

LARUS CINERARIUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 224. 4.

— RIDIBUNDUS. *Var. β. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 812. 2.

RED-LEGGED GULL. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 533. *E. Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 381. 10.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS. *Var. γ. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 812.

BROWN-HRADED GULL. *Albin's Birds,* 2. *tab.* 86. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 383. 11.

THE length of this bird is about fifteen inches, breadth nearly twenty-eight; it weighs from nine to eleven ounces. Bill slender; irides hazel, orbits deep red; legs slender; feet broad; colours of the sexes alike.

From the difference in the summer and winter plumage of this bird, authors have made distinct species; for the first two years

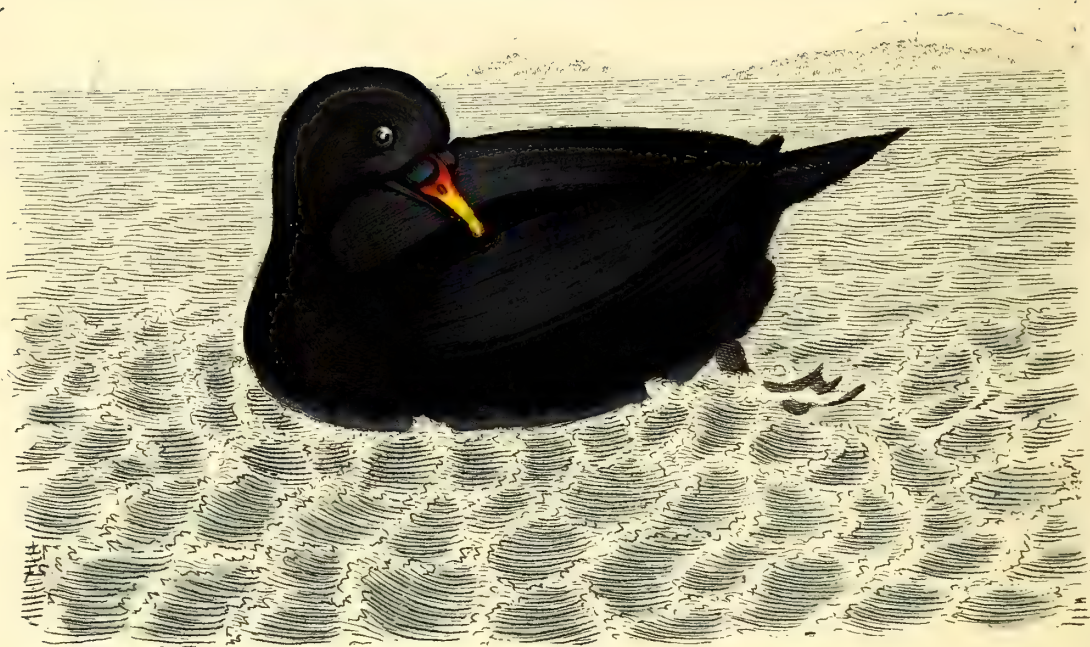
years the colour of the head is a deep brown, but after the third moulting it becomes black ; in the fall of the year, it entirely loses the black on the head except about the auricles, which does not return till the ensuing spring ; the legs also in the winter become of a dull flesh colour, and the webs nearly black, these also assume their lost colour in the breeding season.

This species is common on most parts of the coasts of this country ; it breeds in fenny places, near the borders of rivers, and lays three or four olive brown eggs, blotched with reddish brown ; its nest is composed of dry coarse grass and rushes.

Formerly this bird was held in esteem as an article of food ; they were taken whilst young, before they were able to fly, by driving them into nets, and when fattened on offal, were sold for the table at five shillings the dozen ; and we further learn from Dr. PLOTT's *History of Staffordshire*, published in 1686, that fifty dozen were frequently taken at a driving, and that three drivings were generally made in a season. This species is found in most of the northern parts of Europe and America.

Its provincial names are Sea-Crow, Crocker, Black-Cap, Red-Legs, Puit or Pewit-Gull, and Mire-Crow.





Anas nigra.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, J. March, 1811.

ANAS NIGRA.

SCOTER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Anas Cygnus, (ferus).

SYNONYMS.

ANAS NIGRA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 196. 7.

SCOTER OR BLACK DIVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 273. *Ib. fol.* 253. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 480. 36. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 2. p. 288. 90.

THE length of this species is about twenty-one inches, the breadth two feet eight inches, and it weighs about three pounds and a half: bill short, broad, and flattened at the tip, the base is furnished with a hard protuberance, which projects nearly three-fourths of an inch in height, it is divided in the centre by a deep furrow; edges of the bill serrated, the sides of the upper mandible are furrowed near the edges, the furrow is irregular, and has much the appearance of a seam clumsily sewed; the bill is not furnished with a nail at its extremity, as is common with most of the genus; feet large and broad, and placed far behind; the tail consists of sixteen sharp-pointed feathers, of which the two middle ones are the longest. Colour of the female dusky black, intermixed with brown and grey, the bill is formed as in the male, but the protuberance is not so large, the colour of this knob is subject to vary; we have seen it quite red, and in others green, but this may proceed from difference of age.

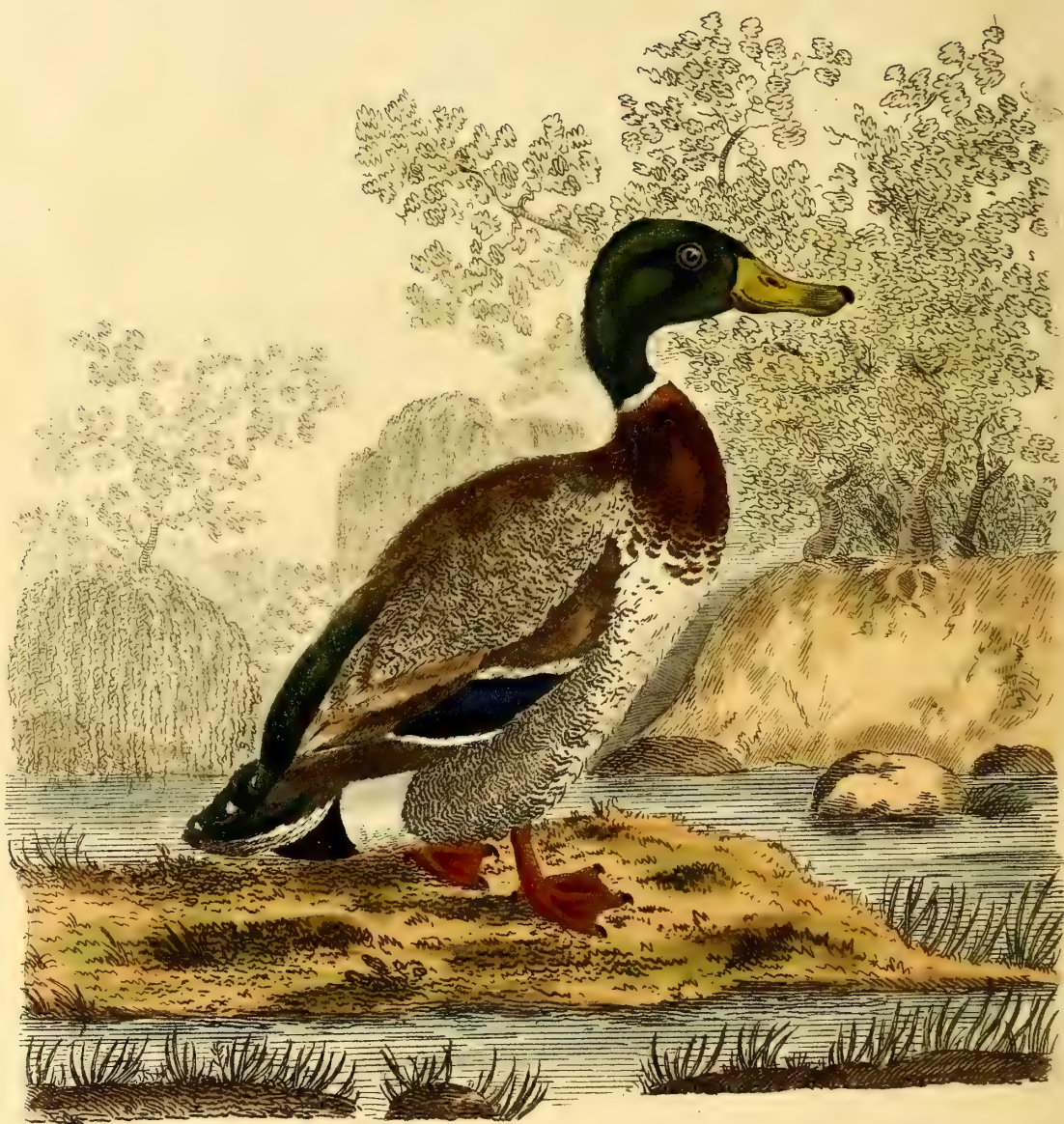
The

The Scoter dives with the greatest dexterity, and is generally met with on the sea at a considerable distance from shore, to which it retires only during the breeding season, they are at that time found in considerable numbers off the coast of France, “ where they are sold to the Catholics, who eat them on fast-days and in Lent ;” they are often taken in the fishermen's nets while diving in quest of food, which chiefly consists of small shell-fish ; in the gizzard of the one our figure was coloured from, we found a quantity of shells reduced to pieces, also some small pieces of glass ; the flesh was hard, dry, and coarse, but entirely devoid of any fishy or unpleasant taste.

Of the habits of this species, we have but little knowledge, as it is of a very shy disposition, and instantly dives at the approach of danger and reappears at a very considerable distance ; its flight is heavy and slow ; the position of its legs (placed so far behind) must occasion it to walk awkwardly ; we have just learnt that this bird sometimes breeds in the Calf of Man, near the coast of Scotland ; of this we hope shortly to be able to give further information.

The male of this species is not furnished with a labyrinth.





Anas boschas.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, 1, March, 1811.

ANAS BOSCHAS.

WILD DUCK.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Anas Cygnus, (ferus.)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS BOSCHAS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 205. 40.

WILD DUCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 279. *tab.* 97. *lb. fol.* 175.

Lath. Syn. 6. p. 489. 43. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 291.

THE MALLARD OR DRAKE (the male of this species) is in length twenty-three inches, in breadth about three feet, and weighs about two pounds and a half; bill two inches and a half long, and nearly one inch broad; irides hazel; tail formed of twenty pointed feathers, the four middle ones of which curl up on the back in a beautiful manner.

This elegant species has long been held in great esteem as an article of food, on which account many different modes have been adopted to ensnare them; the one in general use, and which is the most successful, is termed a decoy, and is thus described by Pennant in the second volume of *British Zoology*, page 594. "The decoy is usually made where there is a large pond surrounded with wood, and behind it a marshy

marshy and uncultivated country, where the wild fowl may securely sleep during the day-time.

“ The decoy consists of several pipes (as they are called) which lead up a narrow ditch, which closes at last with a funnel net. Over these pipes, which become narrower from the first entrance, is fixed a continued arch of netting suspended on hoops. There is usually a pipe or ditch for almost every wind that can blow, as the wild fowl are determined by this circumstance which pipe to choose, and the decoy-man always keeps on the leeward side of the ducks, to prevent his effluvia from reaching their sagacious nostrils. Skreens made of reeds are placed at certain distances along each pipe in such a manner, that it is impossible for the wild fowl to see the decoy-man, before they have passed towards the end of the pipe where the net is fixed.

“ In the evening when the wild fowl begin to feed, the decoy rises, and the noise of their wings, in their flight, may be heard at a great distance. The rising of the decoy is in Somersetshire called rodding. The decoy ducks are fed with hemp-feed, which is thrown in small quantities over the skreens to bring them forward into the pipes, and to allure the wild fowl to follow. They are so trained as to lead the way after hearing the whistle of the decoy-man, and enticed by the hemp-feed, and to dive under water whilst the wild fowl fly on, and are taken in the nets. When they are in such a sleepy state as not to follow the decoy-ducks, a small dog is made to pass between the skreens, which approaching gradually nearer and nearer to the purse-net, draws the attention of the wild fowl, and makes them advance forward; at length the decoy-man appears behind a skreen, and drives them into the net.

“ The

“ The general season for catching wild fowl in decoys, is from the latter end of October to the beginning of February, the legislature forbids taking them from the 1st of June to the 11th of October, under a penalty of five shillings for every bird destroyed within that time.

“ The Lincolnshire decoys are commonly let at a certain annual rent, from fifteen to twenty pounds a year ; and there is one in Somersetshire that pays thirty pounds. The former contribute principally to supply the markets in London. Amazing numbers of ducks, widgeons, and teal are taken, by an account of the number caught a few winters past, in one season ; and in only ten decoys, in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet, it appeared to amount to thirty-one thousand two hundred, in which are included several other species of ducks.” Latham quotes an instance, where two thousand six hundred and forty-six Mallards were taken in two days near Spalding ; they appeared to be young birds before they were able to fly : this mode is now prohibited.

As is usual with most of this genus, the wild ducks leave this country in the spring, retiring northward to breed, and return to us at the fall of the year in prodigious numbers, dispersing themselves over the marshy wastes in the different parts of this kingdom ; but few remain with us throughout the year, these breed in the fens, and their young are not so shy as those that migrate, and are supposed to be the original stock of our domestic duck, which has become varied in plumage, as is common with all animals that are domesticated ; they however always retain the curled feathers on the tail.

The

The variety known by the name of the Rouen Duck, is of the same species, only of very large growth; we have seen one that weighed upwards of seven pounds, the plumage was nearly like the Mallard, we observed no other difference, than that the ring round the neck was considerably larger, and the beautiful chefnut colour on the neck and breast was mottled with white; this variety retains a large share of its wild nature, and often quits its domestic associates for its former haunts, where it breeds with the wild ones, and is often taken with them in the decoys.





Anas tadorna.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth. 1. Feb. 1811.

ANAS TADORNA.

SHIELDRAKE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Anas Cygnus, (ferus).

SYNONYMS.

ANAS TADORNA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 195. 4.

SHIELDRAKE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 278. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 504.
51. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 306.

THIS is rather a larger species than the common mallard; it is in length about two feet, in breadth three feet six inches, and weighs about two pounds and a half; bill three inches long, curving upwards, having a small protuberance at the base, the upper mandible is broad, and grooved at the edges near the tip, the nail in full grown birds curves downward from the tip. The colours in the female are considerably duller and generally want that beautiful bronze, so predominant on all the dark parts of the male bird.

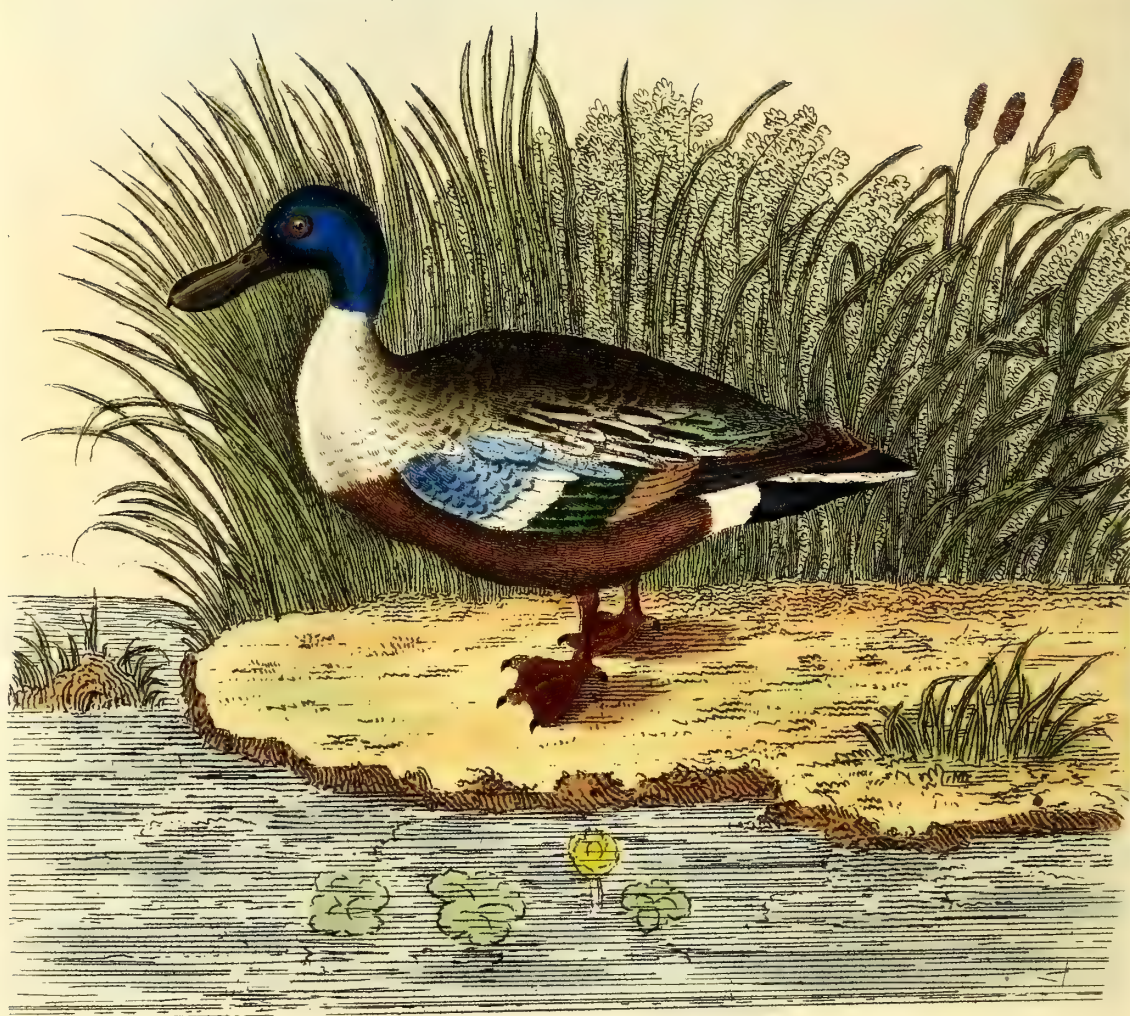
The SHIELDRAKE is common on many parts of our coasts, in some places remaining throughout the year; the female makes her nest in a hole or rabbit burrow, and lines it plentifully with down from her breast; she lays from twelve to sixteen white eggs, these she also covers with down: during the time of incubation, which is about thirty days, the male bird is particularly assiduous in his attention, keeping a strict watch from some neighbouring eminence; should any thing approach

approach to alarm him, he utters a piercing cry and takes wing; unless disturbed, he seldom leaves the vicinity of the nest but when pressed by hunger; when the female leaves to procure food, the male immediately takes her place, and will remain sitting during her absence; instances have been known (where the female has been destroyed) that the male bird has taken on itself the important business of incubation, and has succeeded in rearing its offspring.

The nest is usually in the vicinity of salt-water (though they sometimes breed in the fens) to which they lead their young as soon as hatched, frequently conveying them in their bills; should any interruption take place during their removal from the nest to the water, the young brood couch down behind the first tuft or hillock, and the parent birds fly away in different directions, they soon drop, and afford a pleasing spectacle during the exertion of their wonderful instinctive powers, in endeavouring by various artifices to divert the intruder from their nest, much in the same way as already described in the partridge; when the alarm has subsided, they return to their offspring, to renew the tender offices of parental care: the young keep together till after the first moulting.

Their natural haunts being the shores of the ocean, they are very restless in confinement; when domesticated they possess so much of their original shyness, that the common mode of detaining them, is by injuring one of their wings; they feed principally on the small fry of fish, not sufficiently bold to leave the shore, also on the smaller kinds of shell fish, and sea-weed,





Anas clypeata?

Pub. by G. Graves Wadsworth April, 1. 1812.

ANAS CLYPEATA.

SHOVELER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus* (ferus.)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CLYPEATA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 200. 19. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 856. 60.

SHOVELER. *Br. Zool.* 280. *Ib. fol.* 155. *tab.* 2. 4.
Arct. Zool. 2. 485. *Lath. Syn.* 6.
p. 509. 55. *Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol.* 2.
Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 310.

THIS beautifully marked species is in length about twenty-one inches, and weighs twenty-two ounces. Bill three inches long, the tip is nearly two inches broad, edges strongly pectinated; nail somewhat hooked; irides yellow; tail composed of fourteen feathers; feet broad and strong. The female differs considerably in colour, and with the exception of the blue on the wing, in the general appearance is much like the female pintail; the length one inch less than the male.

The SHOVELER does not breed in this country, though it is said some “ remain in France during the breeding season; that they make a nest of rushes, in which they lay ten or a dozen rufous-coloured eggs.” On the approach of winter
the

the bird makes its appearance in this country, frequently arriving as early as the first week in October; the principal resorts of the species are the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridge; from the Isle of Ely, they are very frequently sent with other species of wild fowl to our London markets.

Its habits are solitary and wild, seldom being met with in companies, as most of the other species are; it dives on the slightest alarm, and retreats to a great distance, this may be considered as the most shy of the whole tribe; it usually leaves Great-Britain the first week in March, though this season we observed a pair exposed for sale as late as the twenty-fourth of that month. Its flesh is generally held in high esteem, as being equal if not superior to that of the common wild-duck.

Provincial names Blue-winged Shoveler, Spoon-Bill, Broad-Bill, and Kertlutock.





tnas (Angula?)

Pub. by G. Graves Wadworth, July 1812.

ANAS CLANGULA.

GOLDEN EYE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus* (ferus.)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CLANGULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 201. 23. *Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 867. 87. *W. Curtis Mss.*

GOLDEN EYE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 276. *Ib. fol.* 154. *tab.*

Addenda. Arct. Zool. 2. 486. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

Pt. 2. p. 330.

“THIS species is about nineteen inches in length, rather exceeding thirty in breadth, and weighs two pounds. Bill short, very thick at the base; irides bright gold colour; feathers on the head particularly thick, giving the bird a disproportioned appearance; legs short and thick; toes long.” The female differs so much in colour that it will form the subject of a future plate.

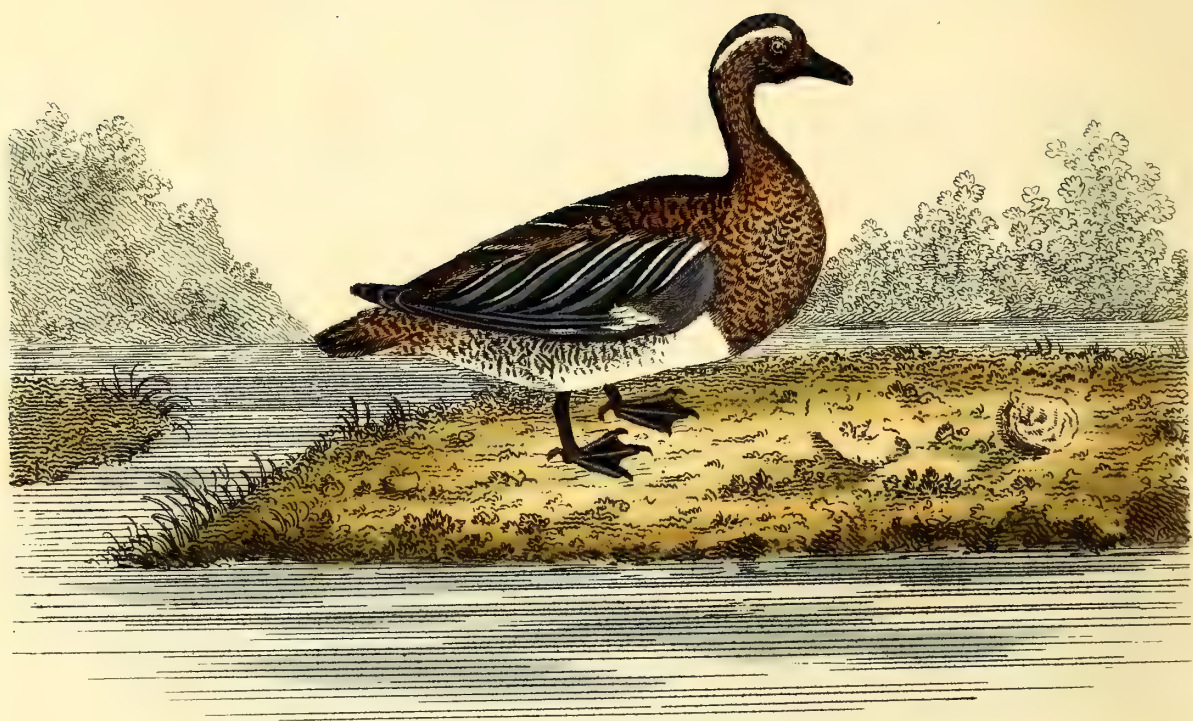
The GOLDEN EYE is rather a scarce species, being but seldom met with except in small flocks of four to six birds; they are very shy and difficult of access; they are sometimes sent to the London markets with other species, from the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridge; they are a local bird, and if unmolested return many years in succession to the same haunts

haunts in the winter. Mr. GOUGH informs us that some were seen on the rivers in Westmoreland, November 9, 1798, which was considered a very unusual circumstance.

They generally arrive in this country in the month of October, and do not leave till towards the end of April ; they fly very quick and to a great height, making a loud noise in their flight, and are remarkable good divers.

The male bird is furnished with a labyrinth, and has a swelling in the *trachia*, by which the species is readily discovered, though subject to considerable variety in colour.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.



Anas Querquedula.

Pub. by J. Graves Wainworth Sep. 2. 1822.

ANAS QUERQUEDULA.

G A R G A N E Y.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See, Anas Cygnus (ferus.)*

SYNONYMS.

ANAS QUERQUEDULA. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 203. 32. Ind.*
Orn. 2. p. 872. 99.

GARGANEY. *Br. Zool. 2. 289. tab. 101. Ib. fol. 158.*
tab. 2. 9. Arct. Zool. 2. p. 576. O.
Lath. Syn. 6. p. 550. 87. Mont.
Orn. Dict. Vol. 1. Bewick's Br.
Birds, Pt. 2. p. 336.

THIS elegant species weighs nearly eighteen ounces ; it is about seventeen inches in length, and thirty in breadth ; bill small ; irides reddish hazel ; legs slender. A figure of the female will appear in a subsequent number.

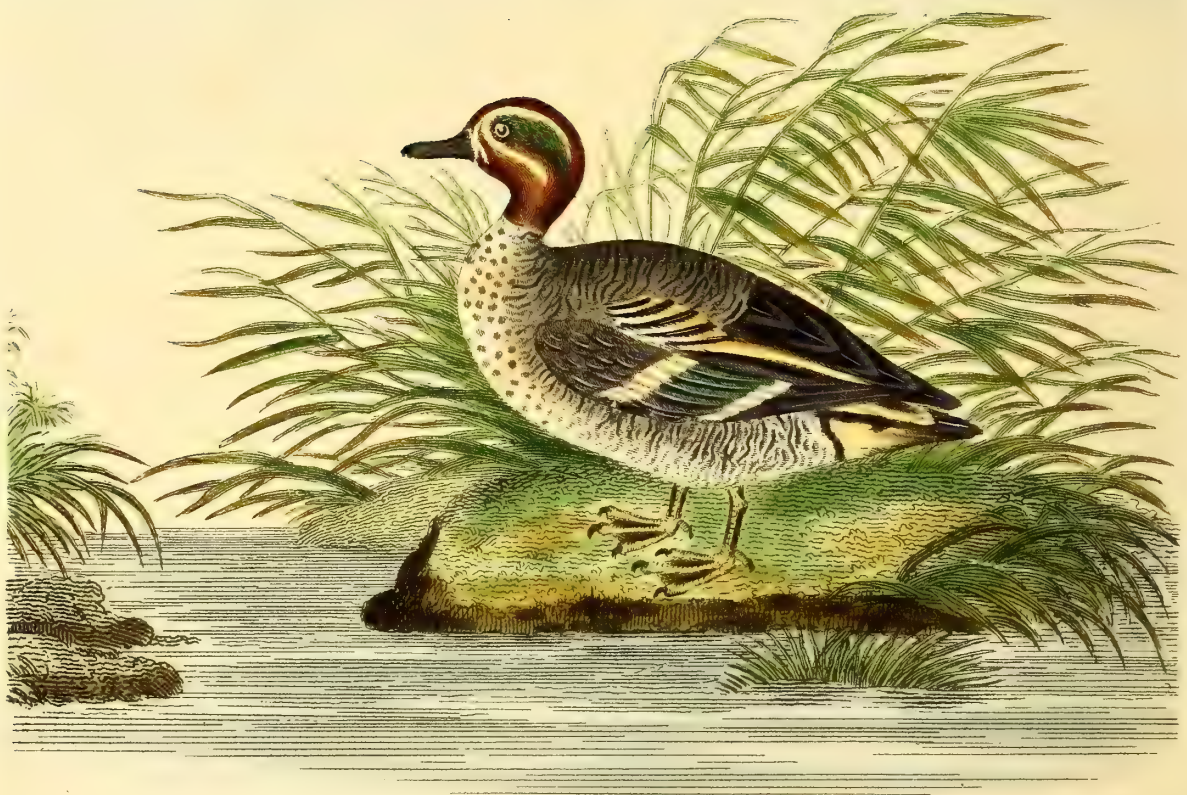
It is a scarce species, and is never met with in numbers ; we have received it from the fens of Ely, as late as the fourteenth of April in the present year, from which it should seem probable, that it breeds there, but we have not heard of its nest having been found. From the decoys it is sometimes sent under the name of Summer Teal ; it has the manners of the common Teal, but flies higher, and when on wing utters a humming noise.

This

This species has been kept for a considerable time in the Queen's menagerie at Frogmore, where it is very familiar, but does not breed.

Provincial names, Pied Widgeon, Summer Teal.





Anas Crecca.

Int. by G. Graves Walworth Sep. 23. 1854.

ANAS CRECCA.

TEAL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* *Anas Cygnus* (ferus.)

SYNONYMS.

ANAS CRECCA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 33. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 872. 100.

COMMON TEAL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 290. *Ib. fol. tab. addenda.*
Arch. Zool. 2. p. 577. P. *Lath. Syn.*
6. p. 551, 88. *Ib. Supt.* p. 276.

TEAL. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*
Pt. 2. p. 338.

ANAS CIRCIA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 34.

SUMMER TEAL. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 552. 89.

THE weight of this diminutive species is about twelve ounces, its length is fourteen inches, and breadth nearly twenty-three. Bill slender; irides yellowish hazel; tail cuniform, composed of sixteen feathers; legs slender.

We purpose giving a figure of the female in a future number.

It arrives in this country in the month of October, in small flocks; flies swift, and dives admirably; it associates with other species of duck, and considerable numbers are daily sent to the London markets during the winter months from the decoys.

Unless

Unless molested the Teal will return annually to the same haunts ; a curious instance of which came to our knowledge a few months ago ; some gentlemen were out on a shooting excursion, in the fens of Lincolnshire, in the winter of 1810, and coming suddenly on some Teal, a shot was fired, which brought one down, which being only wounded in the wing, it was taken off close to its body, and as the bird appeared unhurt elsewhere, it was conveyed alive to the estate of one of the party, situated in Kent, where it was turned out with the other species of ducks, and soon became familiar and accompanied them to the farm-yard ; it soon recovered and seemed to be quite reconciled to its domestic associates, till the return of mild weather, which happened early in February, when it grew uneasy, and kept fluttering about almost continually, and refused its food ; in a few days the bird was missed and was not to be found. In the month of January 1812, some of the same party paid a second visit to the fens, and on returning to the spot where they met with success last season, they found more Teal, some of which were killed, and among them the bird lost the preceding year, which was clearly identified by marks on its feet, as well as by its wanting a wing.

A variety of this species is frequently confounded with the Garganey, under the name of Summer Teal.



Pelecanus lophurus.

Pub. by G. Graves Wiltworth July 27. 1812.

PELECANUS LOPHURUS.

TUFTED SHAG.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Pelecanus Carbo*.

SYNONYMS.

TUFTED SHAG OF THE BASS. *Bullock's Catalogue to the London Museum*, p. 68, 8vo. ed.

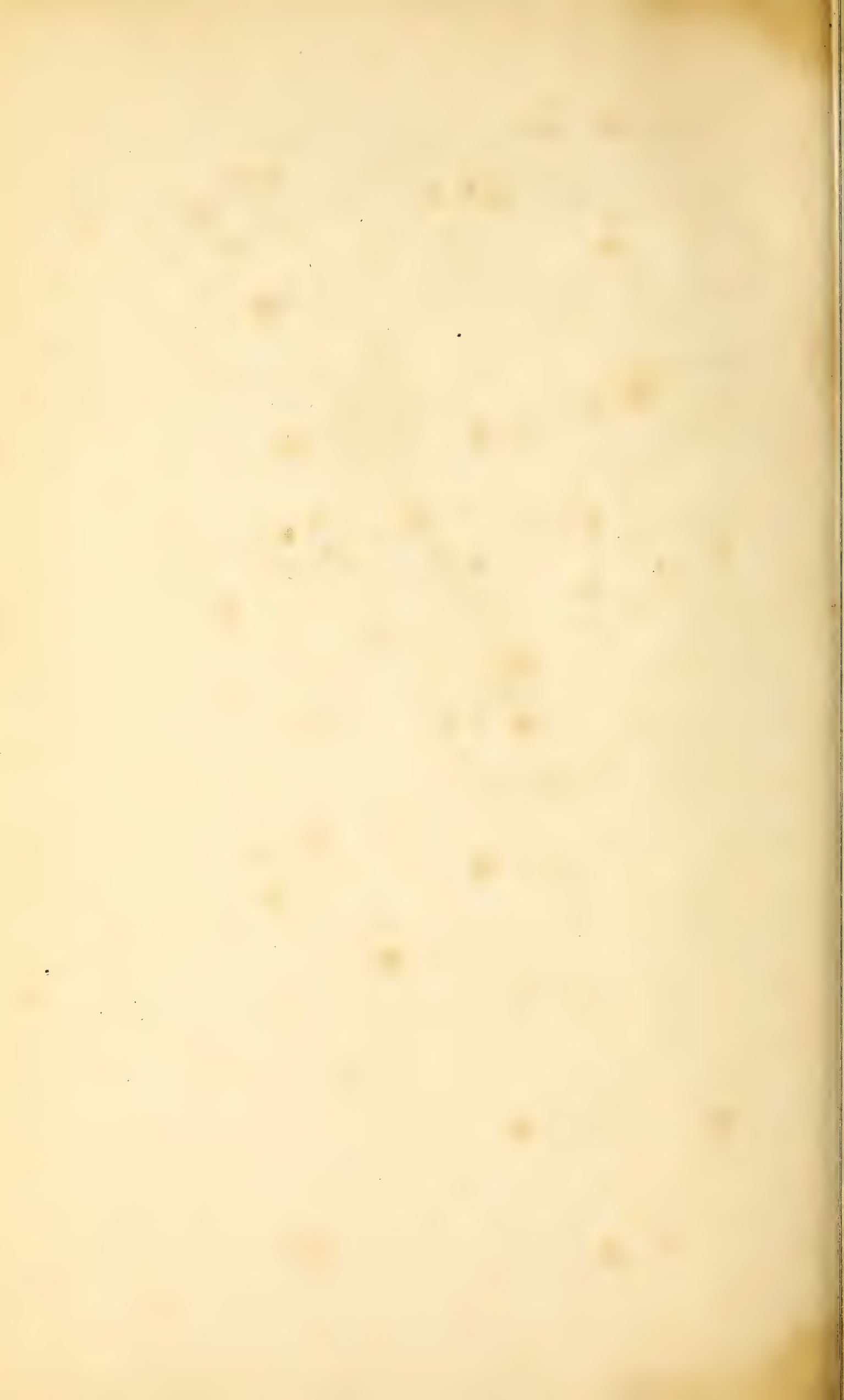
THIS species corresponds in size with the common shag, but differs considerably in elegance of form. Bill three inches long, slender; irides bright green; crown of the head ornamented with a tuft of forty-six narrow feathers, which have a slight inclination forward, these do not appear to be erectable at pleasure; the pouch is small and minutely speckled with black; tail composed of twelve stiff round pointed feathers; legs slender. The specimen from which our figure was taken "was shot on the Bass island in the Frith of Forth, where they are supposed to breed and remain all the year."

Mr. BULLOCK mentions that "two of these birds, both females, were shot by him on the 9th of May 1807; the ovaries of both specimens contained a number of small eggs, and from the account of the person who takes the young Gannets at the Bass, and who possesses considerable knowledge of the birds that visit it, there can be but little doubt of its being a new species, and of its rearing its young in the inaccessible

cessible precipices of that island," and he further remarks "the flesh was eaten and found to be entirely destitute of that rancid smell and taste that affects the generality of the cormorant tribe."

We have called this species *Lophurus*, in contradistinction to *Cristatus*, though both terms have the same meaning; the latter has been taken up by Dr. LATHAM, and applied as a specific name to the crested shag; our appellation may be retained as a specific name to the present, should further experience confirm the present opinion of its being a distinct species.

Our figure was taken from the specimen above alluded to in the London Museum.



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